

69TH



2025 RULES OF THE MONTANA LEGISLATURE

with the

Montana Constitution
Declaration of Independence
U.S. Constitution

DEADLINES
69TH LEGISLATURE — CONVENED JANUARY 6, 2025
1st - 48th Legislative Days

Day 12	Day 17	Day 36	Day 40	Day 48
Bill draft and resolutions, except requests, except for revenue and appropriations bills*	Bill draft requests for revenue bills*	Bill draft requests for committee and leadership bills and resolutions*	Last day to introduce general bills and resolutions, except committee bills	Bill draft requests for appropriations bills* Transmittal of general bills and resolutions

Transmittal Break
March 8 - 13

*Bills and resolutions must be introduced within two days after delivery to the requestor (Joint Rule 40-50).

RULES OF THE MONTANA LEGISLATURE

Adopted
April 2025

with the
Montana Constitution
Declaration of Independence
U.S. Constitution

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JOINT RULES

CHAPTER 1

Legislator Remote Participation

1-05. Definitions. As used in these joint rules, the following definitions apply:

(1) “Member” means a member of the Senate or the House of Representatives for the 68th Legislature.

(2) “Participating remotely”, “remotely present”, or “participate remotely” means participating by telephone, teleconference, videoconference, or other means.

(3) “Present” means a member was either physically present and participating in the session or remotely present and participating in the session.

1-40. Members physically present or remotely present by electronic means. (1) The Senate and the House may assemble, convene, and conduct the session with members being either physically present or participating remotely. A member is not permitted to participate remotely unless excluded from physical participation based on a decision of the member’s caucus leader pursuant to Joint Rule 1-50.

(2) Subject to subsection (3), members who are permitted to participate remotely in the session:

(a) may vote on any question or other matter before the Senate or the House, including committees of the Senate or the House;

(b) have the same privileges, rights, and duties as if the member were physically present, including the right, privilege, and responsibility to cast votes on all questions or other matters brought to a vote;

(c) are considered to have immunity that prevents the member from being questioned in any other place for any speech or debate in the Legislature that happens by participating remotely, as guaranteed by Article V, section 8, of the Montana Constitution;

(d) are entitled to receive compensation for remotely participating in the same manner as a legislator member physically participating during the session; and

(e) are considered present and in attendance at the session for all purposes, including for purposes of:

(i) determining a quorum pursuant to Article V, section 10, of the Montana Constitution; and

(ii) being present for the passage of a bill pursuant to Article V, section 11, of the Montana Constitution.

(3) Members who vote remotely are required to use electronic authentication as determined by the Legislative Council to prevent access to voting by anyone other than the member.

(4) The Legislative Services Division shall assist members who are participating remotely with any logistical or technical issues during the session.

1-50. Participation during session – permission granted by caucus leader for participating remotely. (1) A member's caucus leader may allow the member to participate remotely as provided in Joint Rule 1-40 and to vote by proxy, except as provided in subsection (2).

(2) Voting by proxy in third reading may be authorized by a member's caucus leader only when a member is hospitalized. Proxy voting on third reading is discouraged unless a member is physically present and participating in the session or remotely present and participating in the session, because Article V, section 11, of the Montana Constitution requires a member to be "present and voting".

(3) For the purpose of this rule, the caucus leader:

(a) for the majority party in the House is the Speaker of the House, the Speaker Pro Tempore of the House, the House Majority Leader, or a Representative designated by a leader in this subsection (3)(a);

(b) for the minority party in the House is the House Minority Leader or a Representative designated by the House Minority Leader;

(c) for the majority party in the Senate is the Senate President, the Senate President Pro Tempore, the Senate Majority Leader, or a Senator designated by a leader in this subsection (3)(c); and

(d) for the minority party in the Senate is the Senate Minority Leader or a Senator designated by the Senate Minority Leader.

CHAPTER 10

Administration

10-10. Time of meeting. Each house may order its time of meeting.

10-20. Legislative day – duration. (1) If either house is in session on a given day, that day constitutes a legislative day.

(2) A legislative day for a house ends either 24 hours after that house convenes for the day or at the time the house convenes for the following legislative day, whichever is earlier.

10-30. Schedules. The presiding officer of each house shall coordinate its schedule to accommodate the workload of the other house.

10-40. Adjournment – recess – meeting place. A house may not, without the consent of the other, adjourn or recess for more than 3 days or to any place other than that in which the two houses are sitting (Montana Constitution, Art. V, Sec. 10(5)). The procedure for obtaining consent is contained in Joint Rule 20-10.

10-50. Access of media – registration – decorum – sanctions. (1) Subject to the presiding officer's discretion on issues of decorum and order, a registered media representative may not be prohibited from photographing, televising, or recording a legislative meeting or hearing.

(2) The presiding officer shall authorize the issuance of cards to media representatives to allow floor access, and media representatives holding the cards are subject to placement on the floor by the presiding officer. The presiding officer may delegate enforcement of this rule to the office of the Secretary of the Senate, Chief Clerk of the House, the respective Sergeant-at-Arms, or the Legislative Information Officer. The privilege may be revoked or suspended for a violation of decorum and order as agreed to by the media representative upon application for registration.

(3) Registered media representatives may be subject to seating in designated areas. Overflow access will be in the gallery.

10-60. Conflict of interest. A member who has a personal or private interest in any measure or bill proposed or pending before the Legislature shall disclose the fact to the house to which the member belongs.

10-70. Telephone calls and internet access. (1) Use of a state telephone while the Legislature is in session or while the member is in travel status is considered official legislative business. This includes but is not limited to calls made to constituencies, places of business, and family members. A member's access to the internet through a permissible server is a proper use of the state communication system if the use is for legislative business or is within the scope of permissible use of a state telephone.

(2) Session staff, including aides, may use state telephones if specifically authorized to do so by their legislative sponsor or supervisor. Sponsoring members and supervisors are accountable for use of state telephones and internet access by their staff, including aides, and may not authorize others to use state phones or state servers to access the internet.

(3) Permanent staff of the Legislature shall comply with executive branch rules applying to the use of state telephones.

(4) For purposes of this section, "state telephone" or "state phone" means a landline telephone or other telephone provided by the state.

10-80. Joint employees. The presiding officers of each house, acting together, shall:

(1) hire joint employees; and

(2) review a dispute or complaint involving the competency or decorum of a joint employee, and dismiss, suspend, or retain the employee.

10-85. Discrimination, harassment, and retaliation prohibited – adoption of policy. (1) Legislators, legislative employees, and all participants in the legislative process have the right to work free of discrimination, harassment, and retaliation when performing services in furtherance of legislative responsibilities, whether the offender is an employer, employee, or legislator.

(2) The policy of the Montana Legislature prohibiting discrimination, harassment, and retaliation, as recommended by the Legislative Council and approved by the Legislature by virtue of adoption of these joint rules, must be shared with members and staff during orientation and training and published separately as an appendix to the Joint Rules.

10-100. Legislative Services Division. (1) The staff of the Legislative Services Division shall serve both houses as required.

(2) Staff members shall:

(a) maintain personnel files for legislative employees; and

(b) prepare payrolls and prepare a monthly financial report.

(3) The Legislative Services Division shall train rostrum staff for both houses.

10-120. Engrossing and enrolling staff – duties. (1) The Legislative Services Division shall provide all engrossing and enrolling staff.

(2) The duties of the engrossing and enrolling staff are:

(a) to engross or enroll any bill or resolution delivered to them within 48 hours after it has been received, unless further time is granted in writing by the presiding officer of the house in which the bill originated; and

(b) to correct clerical errors, absent the objection of the sponsor of a bill, resolution, or amendment and the Secretary of the Senate or the Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives in any bill or amendment originating in the house by which the Clerk or Secretary is employed. The following kinds of clerical errors may be corrected:

(i) errors in spelling;

(ii) errors in numbering sections;

(iii) additions or deletions of underlining or lines through matter to be stricken;

(iv) material copied incorrectly from the Montana Code Annotated;

(v) errors in outlining or in internal references;

(vi) an error in a title caused by an amendment;

(vii) an error in a catchline caused by an amendment;

(viii) errors in references to the Montana Code Annotated; and

(ix) other nonconformities of an amendment with Bill Drafting Manual form.

(3) The engrossing and enrolling staff shall give notice in writing of the clerical correction to the Secretary of the Senate or the Chief Clerk of the House, who shall give notice to the sponsor of the bill or amendment. The form must be filed in the office of the amendments coordinator. A party receiving notice may register an objection to the correction by filing the objection in writing with the Secretary of the Senate or the Chief Clerk of the House by the end of the next legislative day following receipt of the notice. The Senate or House shall vote on whether or not to uphold the objection. If the objection is upheld, the Secretary of the Senate or the Chief Clerk of the House shall notify the Executive Director of the Legislative Services Division, and the engrossing staff shall change the bill to remove the correction or corrections to which the objection was made.

(4) For the purposes of this rule, “engrossing” means placing amendments in a bill.

10-130. Bills – sponsorship – style – format. (1) A bill must be sponsored by a member of the Legislature.

(2) A bill must be formatted electronically with numbered lines and:

- (a) printed on paper with numbered lines;
- (b) numbered at the foot of each page (except page 1);
- (c) backed with a page of substantial material that includes spaces for notations for tracking the progress of the bill; and
- (d) introduced. Introduction constitutes the first reading of the bill.

(3) In a section amending an existing statute, matter to be stricken out must be indicated with a line through the words or part to be deleted, and new matter must be underlined.

(4) (a) Except as provided in subsection (4)(b), sections of the Montana Code Annotated repealed or amended in a bill must be stated in the title.

(b) (i) Sections of the Montana Code Annotated repealed or amended in a legislative referendum must be stated in the title unless the inclusion of those sections in the title would cause the title to cumulatively exceed a 100-word limit.

(ii) If the inclusion of sections of the Montana Code Annotated repealed or amended in a legislative referendum title would cause the title to cumulatively exceed 100 words, the title must include those sections that do not exceed the 100-word limit and

include a reference to the total number of additional sections listed in the body of the bill that are excluded from the title due to the 100-word limit. Those additional sections excluded from the title must be listed in a section within the body of the bill after the enacting clause.

(5) Introduced bills must be posted online and may be reproduced on white paper and distributed to members.

(6) (a) A legal review note or analysis produced by the Legislative Services Division Legal Services Office must be attached to an introduced bill and posted on the Legislative Branch website.

(b) After a legal review note has been posted for an introduced bill, if the bill is later amended and the primary sponsor of the bill believes the amendment resolves the potential legal issues cited in the legal review note, the primary sponsor may request that the Legislative Services Division Legal Services Office revise the posted legal review note to include a statement from the primary sponsor that the adopted amendment has resolved the potential legal issues cited in the legal review note.

(7) Prior to submitting legislation for introduction, the chief sponsor may add representatives and senators as cosponsors. A legislator may be added as a cosponsor by an in-person request, an electronic message, a phone communication, or a cosponsor form. If a printed cosponsor form is used, a legislator must sign or initial a cosponsor form supplied upon request by the Secretary of the Senate or the Chief Clerk of the House in order to be added as a cosponsor. A legislator may also sign on the front page of the legislation.

(8) (a) Within 2 days from the date that the chief sponsor signs and accepts legislation from the Legislative Services Division and prior to submitting legislation to the Secretary of the Senate or the Chief Clerk of the House for introduction, the chief sponsor may add representatives and senators as cosponsors. A legislator shall sign the cosponsor form attached to the legislation in order to be added as a cosponsor.

(b) (i) Except as provided in subsection (8)(b)(ii), after legislation is submitted for introduction but before the legislation returns from the first house committee, the chief sponsor may add or remove cosponsors by filing a cosponsor form with the Secretary of the Senate or the Chief Clerk of the House.

(ii) A Senate chief sponsor may not remove a cosponsor.

10-140. Voting on bills – constitutional amendments.

(1) A bill may not become a law except by vote of the constitutionally required majority of all the members present and voting in each house (Montana Constitution, Art. V, Sec. 11(1)). On final passage, the vote must be taken by ayes and noes and the names of those voting entered on the journal (Montana Constitution, Art. V, Sec. 11(2)).

(2) Any vote in one house on a bill proposing an amendment to The Constitution of the State of Montana under circumstances in which there exists the mathematical possibility of obtaining the necessary two-thirds vote of the Legislature will cause the bill to progress as though it had received the majority vote.

(3) This rule does not prevent a committee from tabling a bill proposing an amendment to The Constitution of the State of Montana.

10-150. Recording and publication of voting. (1) Every vote of each member on each substantive question in the Legislature, in any committee, or in Committee of the Whole must be recorded and made available to the public. On final passage of any bill or joint resolution, the vote must be taken by ayes and noes and the names entered on the journal.

(2) (a) Roll call votes must be taken by ayes and noes and the names entered on the journal on adopting an adverse committee report and on those motions made in Committee of the Whole to:

- (i) amend;
- (ii) recommend passage or nonpassage;
- (iii) recommend concurrence or nonconcurrence; or
- (iv) indefinitely postpone.

(b) The text of all proposed amendments in Committee of the Whole must be recorded.

(3) A roll call vote must be taken on nonsubstantive questions on the request of two members who may, on any vote, request that the ayes and noes be spread upon the journal.

(4) Roll call votes and other votes that are to be made public but are not specifically required to be spread upon the journal must be entered in the audio recording log of the appropriate committee or of the appropriate house (Montana Constitution, Art. V, Sec. 11(2)). The official record of a committee meeting is

the audio recording of the meeting, and an audio recording log must also be kept that includes but is not limited to:

- (a) the date, time, and place of the meeting;
- (b) a list of the individual members of the public body, agency, or organization who were in attendance;
- (c) all matters proposed, discussed, or decided; and
- (d) at the request of any member, a record of votes by individual members for any votes taken.

10-160. Journal. Each house shall:

- (1) supply the Legislative Services Division with the contents of the daily journal to be stored on an automated system;
- (2) examine its journal and order correction of any errors; and
- (3) make a daily journal available to all members.

10-170. Journals – authentication – availability. (1) The journal of the Senate must be authenticated by the signatures of the President and the Secretary of the Senate, and the journal of the House of Representatives must be authenticated by the signatures of the Speaker and the Chief Clerk of the House.

(2) The Legislative Services Division shall make the completed journals electronically available to the public.

CHAPTER 20

Relations With Other House

20-10. Consent for adjournment or recess. As required by Article V, section 10(5), of the Montana Constitution, the consent of the other house is required for adjournment or recess for more than 3 calendar days. Consent for adjournment is obtained by having the house wishing to adjourn send a message to the other house and having the receiving house vote favorably on the request. The receiving house shall inform the requesting house of its consent or lack of consent. Consent is not required on or after the 87th legislative day.

CHAPTER 30

Committees

30-05. Remote and in-person public testimony before a committee. (1) Except as provided for in subsection (2), and subject to provisions of H30-60 and S30-80, remote or in-person testimony from proponents, opponents, and informational witnesses must be allowed on every bill or resolution before a standing or select committee.

(2) If a remote technology system failure prevents a person from providing remote testimony, the person may submit written electronic testimony for the committee's official record.

30-10. Joint committee chair – exception. Except as provided in Joint Rule 30-50 concerning the joint meetings of the Senate Finance and Claims Committee and the House Appropriations Committee, the chair of the Senate committee is the chair of all joint committees.

30-20. Voting in joint committees – exception. (1) Except for Rules Committees and conference committees, a member of a joint committee votes individually and not by the house to which the committee member belongs.

(2) Because the Rules Committees and conference committees are joint meetings of separate committees, in those committees the committees from each house vote separately. A majority of each committee shall agree before any action may be taken, unless otherwise specified by individual house rules.

30-30. Conference committees – subject matter restrictions. (1) (a) (i) If either house requests a conference committee and appoints a committee for the purpose of discussing an amendment on which the two houses cannot agree, the other house shall appoint a committee for the same purpose.

(ii) (A) For Senate legislation, the President shall appoint the primary sponsor to the applicable requested conference committee.

(B) For House legislation, the Speaker shall appoint the primary sponsor to the applicable requested conference committee.

(b) Subject to subsection (4), the time and place of all conference committee meetings must be agreed upon by their chairs and

announced from the rostrum. This announcement is in order at any time. Failure to make this announcement does not affect the validity of the legislation being considered.

(2) A conference committee, having conferred, shall report to the respective houses the result of its conference. Subject to subsection (4), a conference committee shall confine itself to consideration of the disputed amendment. The committee may recommend:

(a) acceptance or rejection of each disputed amendment in its entirety; or

(b) further amendment of the disputed amendment.

(3) (a) If either house requests a free conference committee and the other house concurs, appointments must be made in the same manner as provided in subsection (1). Subject to subsection (4), a free conference committee may discuss and propose amendments to a bill in its entirety and is not confined to a particular amendment. However, a free conference committee is limited to consideration of amendments that are within the scope of the title of the introduced bill.

(b) A free conference committee may not take executive action on an amendment to a bill implementing provisions of a general appropriation act that does not directly and substantively address the subject of the bill.

(4) A meeting of a conference committee or free conference committee must be conducted as an open meeting, and an audio recording log of the meeting must be kept. Committees are encouraged to provide at least 24 hours' notice to members of the committee and the public. A committee shall conduct a hearing with the opportunity for public comment for the purpose of commenting on proposed amendments or potential amendments to the bill.

30-40. Conference committee – enrolling. A conference committee report must give clerical instructions for a corrected reference bill and for enrolling by referring to the reference bill version.

30-50. Committee consideration of general appropriation bills. (1) All general appropriation bills must first be considered by a joint subcommittee composed of designated members of the Senate Finance and Claims Committee and the House Appropriations Committee, and then by each committee separately.

(2) Joint meetings of the House Appropriations Committee and the Senate Finance and Claims Committee must be held upon call of the chair of the House Appropriations Committee, who is chair of the joint committee.

(3) The committee chair of the Senate Finance and Claims Committee or of the House Appropriations Committee may be a voting member in the joint subcommittees if:

- (a) either house has fewer members on the joint subcommittees;
- (b) the chair represents the house with fewer members on the subcommittees; and
- (c) the chair is present for the vote at the time that a question is called. A vote may not be held open to facilitate voting by a chair.

30-60. Estimation of revenue. (1) The Revenue Interim Committee shall introduce a House joint resolution for the purpose of estimating revenue that may be available for appropriation by the Legislature.

(2) (a) The committee must have prepared by December 1 for introduction during each regular session of the Legislature in which a revenue bill is under consideration an estimate of the amount of revenue projected to be available for legislative appropriation.

(b) The committee may prepare for introduction during a special session of the Legislature in which a revenue bill or an appropriation bill is under consideration an estimate of the amount of projected revenue. The revenue estimate is considered a subject specified in the call of a special session.

30-70. Appointment of interim committees. (1) During an interim when the Legislature is not in session, the committees listed in subsection (2) are the interim committees of the Legislature. They are empowered to sit as committees and may act in their respective areas of responsibility.

(2) (a) The following are interim committees of the Legislature:

- (i) Children, Families, Health, and Human Services Interim Committee;
- (ii) Economic Affairs Interim Committee;
- (iii) Education Interim Committee;
- (iv) Energy and Telecommunications Interim Committee;

- (v) Law and Justice Interim Committee;
- (vi) Local Government Interim Committee;
- (vii) Revenue Interim Committee;
- (viii) State Administration and Veterans' Affairs Interim Committee;
- (ix) State-Tribal Relations Interim Committee;
- (x) Transportation Interim Committee; and
- (xi) Water Policy Interim Committee.

(b) For the purposes of this rule, the Environmental Quality Council is also considered an interim committee.

(3) The Speaker of the House and the President of the Senate are ex officio voting members of each interim committee for the sole purpose of breaking a tie vote on a question before an interim committee involving an interim committee objection to an administrative rule pursuant to Title 2, chapter 4, MCA.

(4) Fifty percent of interim committees must be selected to the extent possible from the following legislative standing committees:

(a) Children, Families, Health, and Human Services Interim Committee:

- (i) Senate Public Health, Welfare, and Safety Committee;
- (ii) Senate Finance and Claims Committee;
- (iii) House Human Services Committee; and
- (iv) House Appropriations Committee;

(b) Economic Affairs Interim Committee:

- (i) Senate Agriculture, Livestock, and Irrigation Committee;
- (ii) Senate Business, Labor, and Economic Affairs Committee;
- (iii) Senate Finance and Claims Committee;
- (iv) Senate Energy Committee;
- (v) House Agriculture Committee;
- (vi) House Business and Labor Committee;
- (vii) House Energy, Technology, and Federal Relations Committee; and
- (viii) House Appropriations Committee;

- (c) Education Interim Committee:
 - (i) Senate Education and Cultural Resources Committee;
 - (ii) Senate Finance and Claims Committee;
 - (iii) House Education Committee; and
 - (iv) House Appropriations Committee;
- (d) Energy and Telecommunications Interim Committee:
 - (i) Senate Energy Committee;
 - (ii) House Energy, Technology, and Federal Relations Committee;
 - (iii) House Appropriations Committee; and
 - (iv) Senate Finance and Claims Committee;
- (e) Law and Justice Interim Committee:
 - (i) Senate Judiciary Committee;
 - (ii) Senate Finance and Claims Committee;
 - (iii) House Judiciary Committee; and
 - (iv) House Appropriations Committee;
- (f) Local Government Interim Committee:
 - (i) Senate Local Government Committee;
 - (ii) Senate Finance and Claims Committee;
 - (iii) House Local Government Committee; and
 - (iv) House Appropriations Committee;
- (g) Revenue Interim Committee:
 - (i) Senate Taxation Committee;
 - (ii) Senate Finance and Claims Committee;
 - (iii) House Taxation Committee; and
 - (iv) House Appropriations Committee;
- (h) State Administration and Veterans' Affairs Interim Committee:
 - (i) Senate State Administration Committee;
 - (ii) Senate Finance and Claims Committee;
 - (iii) House State Administration Committee; and

- (iv) House Appropriations Committee;
- (i) State-Tribal Relations Committee:
- (i) Senate Education and Cultural Resources Committee;
- (ii) Senate Finance and Claims Committee;
- (iii) House Energy, Technology, and Federal Relations Committee; and
- (iv) House Appropriations Committee;
- (j) Transportation Interim Committee:
- (i) Senate Highways and Transportation Committee;
- (ii) Senate Finance and Claims Committee;
- (iii) House Transportation Committee; and
- (iv) House Appropriations Committee;
- (k) Water Policy Interim Committee:
- (i) Senate Agriculture, Livestock, and Irrigation Committee;
- (ii) Senate Natural Resources Committee;
- (iii) Senate Fish and Game Committee;
- (iv) Senate Finance and Claims Committee;
- (v) House Agriculture Committee;
- (vi) House Fish, Wildlife, and Parks Committee;
- (vii) House Natural Resources Committee; and
- (viii) House Appropriations Committee.

30-80. Appointment of committees other than standing or statutory interim committees. Members of committees other than standing or statutory interim committees shall be appointed in accordance with the rules of each house.

CHAPTER 40

Legislation

40-10. Amendment to state constitution. A bill must be used to propose an amendment to The Constitution of the State of Montana. The bill is not subject to the veto of the Governor (Montana Constitution, Art. VI, Sec. 10(1)).

40-20. Appropriation bills – introduction in House – feed bill. (1) All appropriation bills must originate in the House of Representatives.

(2) Appropriation bills for the operation of the Legislature must be introduced by the chair of the House Appropriations Committee.

(3) (a) The provisions of a bill that implements provisions of a general appropriation act must directly and substantively relate to a corresponding provision of the general appropriation act.

(b) (i) When a bill that implements provisions of a general appropriation act is transmitted from the Senate to the House for concurrence, the House may refer the bill to the House Appropriations Committee for a joint meeting with the appropriate house standing committee for public review and consideration prior to action by the House Committee of the Whole on second reading.

(ii) When a bill that implements provisions of a general appropriation act is transmitted from the House to the Senate for concurrence, the Senate may refer the bill to the Senate Finance and Claims Committee for a joint meeting with the appropriate Senate standing committee for public review and consideration prior to action by the Senate Finance and Claims Committee and the Senate Committee of the Whole on second reading. The appropriate standing committee may not take executive action on the bill other than making recommendations to the Senate Finance and Claims Committee.

40-30. Effective dates. (1) Except as provided in subsections (2) through (4), a statute takes effect on October 1 following its passage and approval unless a different time is prescribed in the enacting legislation.

(2) A law appropriating public funds for a public purpose takes effect on July 1 following its passage and approval unless a different time is prescribed in the enacting legislation.

(3) A statute providing for the taxation or imposition of a fee on motor vehicles takes effect on the first day of January following its passage and approval unless a different time is prescribed in the enacting legislation.

(4) A joint resolution takes effect on its passage unless a different time is prescribed in the joint resolution.

40-40. Bill requests and introduction – limits and procedures – drafting priority – agency and committee bills. (1) Prior to a regular session, a person entitled to serve in that session, referred to as a “member”, or a legislative committee is entitled to request bill drafting services from the Legislative Services Division. Deadlines for requesting certain types of bills during a legislative session are contained in Joint Rule 40-50.

(a) Prior to 5 p.m. on December 5 preceding a regular session of the Legislature, a member may request an unlimited number of bills and resolutions to be prepared by the Legislative Services Division for introduction in the regular session.

(b) After 5 p.m. on December 5, a member may request no more than seven bills or resolutions to be prepared by the Legislative Services Division. At least five of the seven bills or resolutions must be requested before the regular session convenes.

(c) After December 5, a member, in the member’s discretion, may grant to any other member any of the remaining bill or resolution requests the granting member has not used. A bill requested by an individual may not be transferred to another legislator but may be introduced by another legislator. The requestor must take delivery of the bill either in person or by electronic means and sign, either in person or by electronic means, a receipt indicating delivery of the bill and may either introduce the bill or give the bill to another legislator for introduction.

(d) These limitations on bill and resolution requests do not apply to:

- (i) Code Commissioner bills;
- (ii) a bill or resolution requested by a standing committee; and
- (iii) a bill or resolution requested by a member at the request of a newly elected state official if so designated.

(2) (a) (i) Except as provided in subsections (2)(a)(ii) through (2)(a)(iv) and (2)(b), the staff of the Legislative Services Division shall work on bill draft requests in the order received.

(ii) Except as provided in subsection (2)(a)(iii), after a member has requested the drafting of five bills, the sixth bill request and all subsequent bill requests of that member must receive a lower drafting priority than all other bills of members not in excess of five per member.

(iii) On or before the 5th legislative day, a legislator may reprioritize two of the legislator's top five bill draft requests. A legislator may not reprioritize a bill draft request if the legislator has been notified that staff has initiated drafting of the request.

(iv) (A) The Speaker of the House and the President of the Senate may each direct the staff of the Legislative Services Division to assign a higher priority to 38 draft requests. The minority leader of the House and the minority leader of the Senate may each direct the staff of the Legislative Services Division to assign a higher priority to 20 draft requests. The staff of the Legislative Services Division shall assign a higher priority to any bill draft request when jointly directed by the President of the Senate, the minority leader of the Senate, the Speaker of the House, and the minority leader of the House.

(B) The Speaker of the House and the President of the Senate may each request 30 leadership bill drafts. The minority leader of the House and the minority leader of the Senate may each request 20 leadership bill drafts.

(b) Except for bill draft requests described in subsection (1) (d)(iii), if a draft bill has not been received by the Legislative Services Division by November 15 for a bill by request of an agency or entity, the draft loses its priority under this rule.

(3) Bills and resolutions must be reviewed by the staff of the Legislative Services Division prior to introduction for proper format, style, and legal form. The staff of the Legislative Services Division shall store bills on the automated bill drafting equipment and shall post them electronically or print and deliver them to the requesting members. The original bill back must be signed to indicate review by the Legislative Services Division. The electronic version of the bill must include an indication of review by the Legislative Services Division. A bill may not be introduced unless it is so signed or indicated.

(4) (a) During a session, a bill may be introduced by endorsing it with or indicating the name of a member and presenting it to the Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives or the Secretary of the Senate. Bills or joint resolutions may be sponsored jointly by Senate and House members. A jointly sponsored bill must be introduced in the house in which the member whose name appears or is indicated first on the bill is a member. The chief joint sponsor's name must appear immediately to the right of the first sponsor's name, and the chief sponsor may not be changed. Except as provided in subsection (4)(b), in each session of the Legislature, bills, joint resolutions, and simple resolutions must be numbered consecutively in separate series in the order of their receipt.

(b) The first 15 House bills may be reserved for preintroduced bills.

(5) (a) Except as provided in subsection (5)(b)(ii), any bill requested by an interim or statutory legislative committee or on behalf of an administrative or executive agency or department through an interim or statutory committee must be so indicated by placing after the names of the sponsors the phrase "By Request of the.....(Name of committee or agency)". The phrase may not be added to an introduced bill by amendment. The phrase may not be placed on a bill unless requested by a statutory or interim committee prior to the convening of the session. Unless requested by an individual member, a bill draft request submitted at the request of an agency must be submitted to, reviewed by, and requested by the appropriate interim or statutory committee. Except as provided in subsection (5)(b), an agency or committee bill request must be preintroduced or the request is canceled. Preintroduction of an agency, committee, or individual legislator's bill must occur no later than 5 p.m. on December 15th prior to the convening of a regular legislative session. Preintroduction is accomplished when the Legislative Services Division receives a signed preintroduction form.

(b) (i) The preintroduction requirement does not apply to an office held by an elected official during the official's first year in that office or to bills requested by a joint select or joint special committee appointed prior to the convening of the legislative session to address a specific issue. Bills requested under this subsection (5)(b) may include the phrase "By Request of.....(Name of official or committee)".

(ii) An official newly elected to a statewide office may request in writing that the Legislative Services Division remove the

phrase “By Request of.....” from bills requested by the outgoing official of that office.

(6) Bills may be preintroduced, numbered, posted online, and reproduced prior to a legislative session by the staff of the Legislative Services Division. Actual signatures, facsimile signatures (5-2-105, MCA), or electronic signatures, along with verified email addresses, of persons entitled to serve as members in the ensuing session may be obtained on a consent form from the Legislative Services Division and the sponsor’s name printed or listed on the bill. Additional sponsors may be added on motion of the chief sponsor at any time prior to a standing committee report on the bill. These names will be forwarded to the Legislative Services Division to be included on the face of the printed bill or included on the electronic version of the bill following standing committee approval.

40-50. Schedules for drafting requests and bill introduction. (1) The following schedule must be followed for submission of drafting requests.

	Request Deadline
	5:00 P.M.
	Legislative Day
<hr/>	
• General Bills and Resolutions	12
• Revenue Bills	17
• Committee Bills and Resolutions/ Leadership General Bills and Resolutions	36
• Committee Revenue Bills and Bills Proposing Referenda/Leadership Revenue Bills and Bills Proposing Referenda	56
• Committee Bills and Leadership Bills implementing provisions of a general appropriation act	56
• Interim study resolutions	60
• Appropriation Bills	45
• Resolutions to express confirmation of appointments	No Deadline

- Bills repealing or directing the amendment or adoption of administrative rules and joint resolutions advising or requesting the repeal, amendment, or adoption of administrative rules
- No Deadline

(2) (a) A bill or resolution must be introduced at least 6 legislative days prior to the applicable transmittal deadline as provided in Joint Rule 40-200 except for:

- (i) a session committee bill, resolution, or referenda;
- (ii) a bill repealing or directing the amendment or adoption of administrative rules;
- (iii) a joint resolution advising or requesting the repeal, amendment, or adoption of administrative rules; or
- (iv) a resolution expressing confirmation.

(b) Bills and resolutions must be introduced within 2 legislative days after delivery. Failure to comply with the introduction deadline results in the bill draft being canceled.

40-60. Joint resolutions. (1) A joint resolution must be adopted by both houses and is not approved by the Governor. It may be used to:

- (a) express desire, opinion, sympathy, or request of the Legislature;
- (b) recognize relations with other governments, sister states, political subdivisions, or similar governmental entities;
- (c) request, but not require, a legislative entity to conduct an interim study;
- (d) adopt, amend, or repeal the joint rules;
- (e) approve construction of a state building under section 18-2-102 or 20-25-302, MCA;
- (f) deal with disasters and emergencies under Title 10, specifically as provided in sections 10-3-302(3), 10-3-303(3), 10-3-303(4), and 10-3-505(5), MCA;
- (g) submit a negotiated settlement under section 39-31-305(3), MCA;
- (h) declare or terminate an energy emergency under section 90-4-310, MCA;

(i) ratify or propose amendments to the United States Constitution;

(j) advise or request the repeal, amendment, or adoption of a rule in the Administrative Rules of Montana; or

(k) approve the organization of a new community college district under section 20-15-209, MCA.

(2) A joint resolution may not be used for purposes of congratulating or recognizing an individual or group achievement. Recognition of individual or group achievements is handled on special orders of the day.

(3) Except as otherwise provided in these rules or The Constitution of the State of Montana, a joint resolution is treated in all respects as a bill.

(4) A copy of every joint resolution must be transmitted after adoption to the Secretary of State by the Secretary of the Senate or the Chief Clerk of the House.

40-65. Appropriation required for bills requesting interim studies. (1) A bill including a request for an interim study may not be transmitted to the Governor unless the bill contains an appropriation sufficient to conduct the study. The bill must include a contingent voidness section that would void the bill if an appropriation is not included. A fiscal note may be requested for a bill requesting an interim study if the appropriation does not appear to be sufficient.

(2) A Senator may introduce a bill that includes a request for an interim study in the Senate without an appropriation, but the bill may not be transmitted to the Governor unless the bill contains an appropriation added in the House that is sufficient to conduct the study.

40-70. Bills with same purpose – vetoes. (1) A bill may not be introduced or received in a house after that house, during that session, has finally rejected a bill designed to accomplish the same purpose, except with the approval of the Rules Committee of the house in which the bill is offered for introduction or reception.

(2) A bill may be designated as identical to another bill only by the Rules Committee of the house in which the bill is offered for introduction or reception.

(3) Failure to override a veto does not constitute final rejection.

40-80. Reproduction of full statute required. A statute may not be amended or its provisions extended by reference to its title only, but the statute section that is amended or extended must be reproduced or published at length.

40-90. Bills – original purpose. A law may not be passed except by bill. A bill may not be so altered or amended on its passage through either house as to change its original purpose (Montana Constitution, Art. V, Sec. 11(1)).

40-95. Amendment processing. (1) Amendments to bills and resolutions are drafted by Legislative Services Division staff.

(2) All amendments must be reviewed by the staff of the Legislative Services Division for proper format, style, and legal form.

(3) Amendments requested and approved by a legislator on a bill that is in committee or is scheduled for second reading in the Committee of the Whole must be posted online.

40-100. Fiscal notes. (1) All bills reported out of a committee of the Legislature, including interim committees, having a potential effect on the revenues, expenditures, or fiscal liability of the state, local governments, or public schools, except appropriation measures carrying specific dollar amounts, must include a fiscal note incorporating an estimate of the fiscal effect. The Legislative Services Division staff shall indicate at the top of each bill prepared for introduction that a fiscal note may be necessary under this rule. Fiscal notes must be requested by the presiding officer of either house, who, at the time of introduction or after adoption of substantive amendments to an introduced bill, shall determine the need for the note, based on the Legislative Services Division staff recommendation.

(2) The Legislative Services Division shall make available an electronic copy of any bill for which it has been determined a fiscal note may be necessary to the Budget Director immediately after the bill has been prepared for introduction and delivered to the requesting member. The Budget Director may proceed with the preparation of a fiscal note in anticipation of a subsequent formal request. A bill with financial implications for a local government or school district must comply with subsection (4).

(3) The Budget Director, in cooperation with the governmental entity or entities affected by the bill, is responsible for the preparation of the fiscal note. Except as provided in subsection (4), the Budget Director shall return the fiscal note within 6

days unless further time is granted by the presiding officer or committee making the request, based upon a written statement from the Budget Director that additional time is necessary to properly prepare the note.

(4) (a) A bill that may require a local government or school district to perform an activity or provide a service or facility that requires the direct expenditure of additional funds without a specific means to finance the activity, service, or facility in violation of section 1-2-112 or 1-2-113, MCA, must be accompanied, at the time that the bill is presented for introduction, by an estimate of all direct and indirect fiscal impacts on the local government or school district. The estimate of the fiscal impacts must be prepared by the Budget Director in cooperation with a local government or school district affected by the bill.

(b) The Budget Director has 10 days to prepare the estimate. Upon completion of the estimate, the Budget Director shall submit it to the presiding officer and the chief sponsor of the bill.

(5) A completed fiscal note must be submitted by the Budget Director to the presiding officer who requested it. The presiding officer shall notify the bill's chief sponsor of the completed fiscal note and request the chief sponsor's actual or electronic signature. The chief sponsor has 1 legislative day after delivery to review the fiscal note and to discuss the findings with the Budget Director, if necessary. After the legislative day has elapsed, all fiscal notes having a potential effect on the revenues, expenditures, or fiscal liability must be reproduced for the members of the committee hearing the bill and, if the bill is reported out of committee, placed on the members' desks, either with or without the chief sponsor's actual or electronic signature.

(6) A fiscal note must, if possible, show in dollar amounts:

(a) the estimated increase or decrease in revenues or expenditures;

(b) costs that may be absorbed without additional funds; and

(c) long-range financial implications.

(7) The fiscal note may not include any comment or opinion relative to merits of the bill. However, technical or mechanical defects in the bill may be noted.

(8) (a) A fiscal note also may be requested, with the approval of the presiding officer, on a bill and on an amended bill by:

- (i) a committee considering the bill;
- (ii) a majority of the members of the house in which the bill is to be considered, at the time of second reading; or
- (iii) the chief sponsor.

(b) With the approval of the presiding officer, a committee may request a revised fiscal note on committee-approved amendments to a bill not reported out of committee by passing a motion to postpone action on the bill pending a revised fiscal note.

(9) The Budget Director shall prepare and deliver an amended fiscal note on an amended bill within 3 days of the request by the presiding officer; otherwise the bill may proceed without the updated fiscal note.

(10) The Budget Director shall make available on request to any member of the Legislature all background information used in developing a fiscal note.

(11) If a bill requires a fiscal note, the bill may not be reported from a committee for second reading unless the bill is accompanied by the fiscal note.

(12) (a) If the budget director fails to prepare and submit a fiscal note in a timely fashion in accordance with this rule, the presiding officer of each house may request the preparation of a fiscal note by the Legislative Fiscal Division, which shall prepare a fiscal note for the bill.

(b) The presiding officer of the originating chamber shall designate which fiscal note accompanies the bill or is used in the preparation of the status sheet if more than one fiscal note is prepared.

40-110. Sponsor's fiscal note rebuttal. (1) If a sponsor elects to prepare a sponsor's fiscal note rebuttal, the sponsor shall make the election as provided and return the completed sponsor's fiscal note rebuttal form to the presiding officer within 4 days of the election. The form must identify the bill number, the sponsor of the bill, the date prepared, the version of the fiscal note being rebutted, the reasons the sponsor disagrees with the fiscal note, the items or assumptions in the fiscal note that the sponsor believes are incorrect, and the sponsor's estimate of the fiscal impact, if an estimate is available.

(2) The presiding officer may grant additional time to the sponsor for preparation of the sponsor's fiscal note rebuttal.

(3) Upon receipt of the completed sponsor's fiscal note rebuttal form, the presiding officer shall refer it to the committee hearing the bill. If the bill is printed, the form must be identified as a sponsor's fiscal note rebuttal, reproduced, and placed on the members' desks. The sponsor's fiscal note rebuttal must be posted online with the bill materials.

(4) The House and the Senate shall provide forms for preparation of sponsors' fiscal note rebuttals and shall post the completed sponsors' fiscal note rebuttals online and may also print the completed sponsors' fiscal note rebuttal forms on a different color paper than the fiscal notes prepared by the Budget Director.

40-120. Substitute bills. (1) A committee may recommend that every clause in a bill be changed and that entirely new material be substituted so long as the new material is relevant to the title and subject of the original bill. The substitute bill is considered an amendment and not a new bill.

(2) The proper form of reporting a substitute bill by a committee is to propose amendments to strike out all of the material following the enacting clause, to substitute the new material, and to recommend any necessary changes in the title of the bill.

(3) If a committee report is adopted that recommends a substitute for a bill originating in the other house, the substitute bill must be printed and reproduced.

40-130. Reading of bills. Prior to passage, a bill, other than a bill requested by a joint select or joint special committee as provided in 40-40(5)(b), must be read three times in the house in which it is under consideration. It may be read either by title or by summary of title. Introduction constitutes the first reading of the bill.

40-140. Second reading – bill reproduction. (1) If the majority of a house adopts a recommendation for the passage of a bill originating in that house after the bill has been returned from a committee with amendments, the bill and its version status must be posted online and, if printed, the bill must be reproduced on yellow paper with all amendments incorporated into the copies.

(2) If a bill has been returned from a committee without amendments, an indication must be made online on the bill status page. If the bill is printed, only the first sheet must be reproduced on yellow paper, and the remainder of the text may be incorporated by reference to the preceding version of the entire bill.

(3) A bill requested by and heard by a joint select or joint special committee, as provided in 40-40(5)(b), may be referred directly to second reading. If the bill is passed by the house of origin, the bill must be transmitted to the other house, and if the bill was not amended, it may be placed on second reading without the need for referral to a committee.

40-150. Engrossing. (1) When a bill has been reported favorably by Committee of the Whole of the house in which it originated and the report has been adopted, the bill must be engrossed if the bill is amended. Committee of the Whole amendments must be included in the engrossed bill. If the bill is not amended, the bill must be sent to printing. The bill must be placed on the agenda for third reading on the legislative day after receipt.

(2) Copies of the engrossed bill must be available to members electronically. If also printed, the engrossed bill must be reproduced on blue paper. If a bill is unamended by the Committee of the Whole and contains no clerical errors, it is not required to be reprinted. If printed, only the first sheet must be reproduced on blue paper, with the remainder of the text incorporated by reference to the preceding version of the entire bill.

(3) If a bill is amended by a standing committee in the second house, the amendments must be engrossed and the engrossed bill posted online. If the engrossed bill is also printed, the amendments must be included in a tan-colored bill and distributed in the second house for second reading consideration. If the bill is amended in Committee of the Whole, the amendments must be engrossed and the engrossed bill posted online. If the engrossed bill is also printed, the amendments must be included in a salmon-colored reference bill and distributed in the second house for third reading. If the bill passes on third reading, the reference bill must be posted online and, if printed, copies distributed in the original house. The original house may request from the second house a specified number of copies of the amendments to be printed.

40-160. Enrolling. (1) When a bill has passed both houses, it must be enrolled. An original and one duplicate printed copy of the bill must be enrolled, free from all errors, with a margin of two inches at the top and one inch on each side. In sections amending existing statutes, new matter must be underlined and deleted matter must be shown as stricken. The enrolled bill must be posted online.

(2) When the enrolling is completed, the bill must be examined by the sponsor.

(3) The correctly enrolled bill must be delivered to the presiding officer of the house in which the bill originated. The presiding officer shall sign the original and one copy of the bill not later than the next legislative day after it has been reported correctly enrolled, unless the bill is delivered on the last legislative day, in which case the presiding officer shall sign it that day. The fact of signing must be announced by the presiding officer and entered upon the journal no later than the next legislative day. At any time after the report of a bill correctly enrolled and before the signing, if a member signifies a desire to examine the bill, the member must be permitted to do so. The bill then must be transmitted to the other house where the same procedure must be followed.

(4) A bill that has passed both houses of the Legislature by the 90th day may be:

- (a) enrolled;
- (b) clerically corrected by the presiding officers, if necessary;
- (c) signed by the presiding officers; and

(d) delivered to the Governor or, in the case of a bill proposing a referendum, to the Secretary of State, not later than 5 working days after the 90th legislative day.

(5) All journal entries authorized under this rule must be entered on the journal for the 90th day.

(6) The original and one copy signed by the presiding officer of each house must be presented to the Governor or the Secretary of State, as applicable, in return for a receipt. A report then must be made to the house of the day of the presentation, which must be entered on the journal.

(7) The original must be filed with the Secretary of State. A signed copy with a chapter number assigned pursuant to section 5-11-204, MCA, must be filed with the Legislative Services Division.

40-170. Amendment by second house. (1) Amendments to a bill by the second house may not be further amended by the house in which the bill originated, but must be either accepted or rejected. A bill amended by the second house when the effect of the combined amendments is to return the bill to the form that the bill passed the house in which the bill originated is not considered to have been amended and need not be returned to the house of origin for acceptance or rejection of the amendments. If the amendments are rejected, a conference committee may be requested by the house in which the bill originated. If the amendments are accepted and the bill is of a type requiring more than a majority vote for passage, the bill again must be placed on third reading in the house of origin.

(2) The vote on third reading after concurrence in amendments is the vote of the house of origin that must be used to determine if the required number of votes has been cast.

40-180. Final action on a bill. (1) When a bill being heard by the second house has received its third reading or has been rejected, the second house shall transmit it as soon as possible to the original house with notice of the second house's action.

(2) A bill that reduces revenue and that contains a contingent voidness provision may not be transmitted to the Governor unless there is an identified corresponding reduction in an appropriation contained in the general appropriations act.

40-190. Transmittal of bills between houses – referral – hearing. (1) Each house shall transmit to the other with any bill all relevant papers.

(2) When a House bill is transmitted to the Senate, the Secretary of the Senate shall give a dated receipt for the bill to the Chief Clerk of the House. When a Senate bill is transmitted to the House of Representatives, the Chief Clerk of the House shall give a dated receipt to the Secretary of the Senate.

(3) Transmitted bills must be referred to committee and scheduled for hearing.

40-200. Transmittal deadlines – two-thirds vote requirement. (1) (a) A bill or amendment transmitted after the deadline established in this subsection (1) may be considered by the receiving house only upon approval of two-thirds of its members present and voting. If the receiving house does not so vote, the bill or amendment must be held pending in the house to which it was transmitted.

(b) (i) A bill, except for an appropriation bill, a revenue bill, a bill proposing a referendum, a general joint resolution, an interim study resolution, or amendments considered by joint committee, must be transmitted from one house to the other on or before the 48th legislative day.

(ii) Amendments, except to appropriation bills, committee bills implementing the general appropriations bill, the revenue estimating resolution, interim study resolutions, bills proposing referenda, and revenue bills, must be transmitted from one house to the other on or before the 73rd legislative day.

(c) (i) Revenue bills, bills proposing referenda, and general joint resolutions must be transmitted to the other house on or before the 67th legislative day.

(ii) Amendments to revenue bills, bills proposing referenda, and general joint resolutions, received from the other house, must be transmitted to the house of origin on or before the 80th legislative day.

(iii) A revenue bill is one that either increases or decreases revenue by enacting, eliminating, increasing, or decreasing taxes or fees.

(d) (i) Appropriation bills and any bill implementing provisions of a general appropriation bill must be transmitted to the Senate on or before the 69th legislative day. A fund transfer within the state treasury is not an appropriation for purposes of this section.

(ii) Senate amendments to appropriation bills must be transmitted by the Senate to the House on or before the 80th legislative day.

(2) (a) A joint resolution introduced pursuant to 5-5-227, MCA, for the purpose of estimating revenue available for appropriation by the Legislature must be transmitted to the Senate no later than the 60th legislative day.

(b) Amendments to the revenue estimating resolution must be transmitted to the body in which the resolution was introduced no later than the 82nd legislative day.

(3) Bills repealing or directing the amendment or adoption of administrative rules and joint resolutions advising or requesting the repeal, amendment, or adoption of administrative rules may be transmitted at any time during a session.

(4) Interim study resolutions must be transmitted from one house to the other on or before the 85th legislative day.

40-210. Governor's veto. (1) Except as provided in 40-65 and 40-180, each bill passed by the Legislature must be submitted to the Governor for the Governor's signature. This does not apply to:

(a) bills proposing amendments to The Constitution of the State of Montana;

(b) bills ratifying proposed amendments to the United States Constitution;

(c) resolutions; and

(d) referendum measures of the Legislature.

(2) If the Governor does not sign or veto the bill within 10 days after its delivery, the bill becomes law.

(3) The Governor shall return a vetoed bill to the Legislature with a statement of reasons for the veto.

(4) If after receipt of a veto message, two-thirds of the members of each house present approve the bill, it becomes law.

(5) If the Legislature is not in session when the Governor vetoes a bill, the Governor shall return the bill with reasons for the veto to the Legislature as provided by law. The Legislature may be polled on a bill that it approved by two-thirds of the members present or it may be reconvened to reconsider any bill so vetoed (Montana Constitution, Art. VI, Sec. 10).

(6) The Governor may veto items in appropriation bills, and in these instances the procedure must be the same as upon veto of an entire bill (Montana Constitution, Art. VI, Sec. 10).

(7) For the purposes of this rule and 40-220, receipt of the bill with a veto message from the Governor by the house from which the bill originated occurs when either the Chief Clerk of the House or the Secretary of the Senate physically receives the returned bill and the bill is time stamped and dated as being received.

40-220. Response to Governor's veto. (1) When the presiding officer receives a veto message, the presiding officer shall read it to the members over the rostrum. After the reading, a member may move that the Governor's veto be overridden.

(2) A vote on the motion is determined by roll call. If two-thirds of the members present vote “aye”, the veto is overridden. If two-thirds of the members present do not vote “aye”, the veto is sustained.

40-230. Governor’s recommendations for amendment – procedure. (1) The Governor may return any bill to the Legislature with recommendations for amendment. The Governor’s recommendations for amendment must be considered first by the house in which the bill originated.

(2) If the Legislature passes the bill in accordance with the Governor’s recommendations, it shall return the bill to the Governor for reconsideration. The Governor may not return a bill to the Legislature a second time for amendment.

(3) If the Governor returns a bill to the originating house with recommendations for amendment, the house shall reconsider the bill under its rules relating to amendments offered in Committee of the Whole.

(4) The bill then is subject to the following procedures:

(a) The originating house shall transmit to the second house, for consideration under its rules relating to amendments in Committee of the Whole, the bill and the originating house’s approval or disapproval of the Governor’s recommendations.

(b) If both houses approve the Governor’s recommendations, the bill must be returned to the Governor for reconsideration.

(c) If both houses disapprove the Governor’s recommendations, the bill must be returned to the Governor for reconsideration.

(d) If one house disapproves the Governor’s recommendations and the other house approves, then either house may request a conference committee, which may be a free conference committee.

(i) If both houses adopt a conference committee report, the bill in accordance with the report must be returned to the Governor for reconsideration.

(ii) If a conference committee fails to reach agreement or if its report is not adopted by both houses, the Governor’s recommendations must be considered not approved and the bill must be returned to the Governor for further consideration.

CHAPTER 60

Rules

60-05. Source and precedent of legislative rules of the Montana Legislature. (1) The legislative rules of the Montana Legislature are derived from several sources listed below and take precedence in the following order:

- (a) constitutional provisions;
- (b) adopted legislative rules of the Montana Legislature;
- (c) statutory provisions;
- (d) adopted parliamentary authority; and
- (e) parliamentary law.

(2) Legislative rules passed by one legislature or statutory provisions governing the legislative process are not binding on a subsequent legislature.

60-10. Suspension of joint rule – change in rules. (1) A joint rule may be repealed, amended, or adopted only with the concurrence of both houses. A motion or a joint rule resolution to repeal, amend, or adopt a joint rule must be referred to the Rules Committee. A joint rule may be repealed, amended, or adopted only with the concurrence of a majority of the members voting in both houses.

(2) A joint rule governing the procedure for handling bills may be temporarily suspended by the consent of two-thirds of the members of either house, insofar as it applies to the house suspending it.

(3) Any Rules Committee report recommending a change in the joint rules must be referred to the other house. Any new rule or any change in the rules of either house must be transmitted to the other house for informational purposes.

(4) Upon adoption of any change, the Secretary of the Senate and the Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives shall provide the office of the Legislative Services Division:

(a) one copy of all motions or resolutions amending Senate, House, or joint rules; and

(b) electronic copies of all audio recording logs and reports of the Rules Committees.

60-20. Reference to Mason's Manual. Mason's Manual of Legislative Procedure (2020) governs the proceedings of the Senate and the House of Representatives in all cases not covered by these rules.

60-30. Publication and distribution of joint rules. (1) The Legislative Services Division shall codify and publish in one volume:

- (a) the rules of the Senate;
- (b) the rules of the House of Representatives; and
- (c) the joint rules of the Senate and the House of Representatives.

(2) After the rules have been published, the Legislative Services Division shall distribute copies as directed by the Senate and the House of Representatives.

60-40. Tenure of joint rules. The joint rules remain in effect until removed by a joint resolution or until a new Legislature is elected and takes office.

APPENDIX

Policy of the Montana Legislature Prohibiting Discrimination and Harassment (for Legislators)

Adopted by reference in SJ 1

Policy and Objective

A. Right to be free of discrimination or harassment

It is the policy of the Legislative Branch that all participants in the legislative process have the right to be free from discrimination and harassment when participating in the legislative process.

It is the policy of the Legislative Branch to ensure equal employment under Title 49, chapter 2, MCA. The Legislative Branch prohibits discrimination or harassment. The Legislative Branch also prohibits retaliation against any individual who reports discrimination or harassment or participates in an investigation of those reports.

This policy applies to legislator members of the House and Senate of the Montana Legislature. In addition, this policy covers the interaction of and between legislators and others away from the legislative complex in communications and at legislative-sponsored events, professional meetings or seminars, and those activities that involve legislative business. Policies for conduct of permanent, temporary, short-term, and seasonal division employees, House and Senate session employees, and third parties are separate and may be obtained from the Legislative Services Division Human Resources Office.

Nothing in this policy precludes a person from seeking other legal remedies. At any point in the process, if criminal activity is suspected, the matter shall immediately be referred to law enforcement.

B. Discipline

It is the policy of the Montana Legislature to discipline a legislator for substantiated charges of discrimination or harassment of any person in connection with the legislative process. Disciplinary action of a legislator is covered under Section 4 of this policy.

Disciplinary action of a legislative branch employee, including permanent, temporary, short-term, or a seasonal division

employee, session-only employee, page, or intern is covered under their respective policy. Employees of the executive or judicial branches will be referred to their immediate supervisor, manager, or director to deal with under their respective policies.

Disciplinary action against a member of the public, lobbyist, media, vendor, or contractor who is found to have violated this policy includes any appropriate action authorized by law.

A record of each complaint and resolution shall be maintained by the Legislative Services Division Human Resources Office.

1. Definitions of harassment, retaliation

A. **HARASSMENT** - Harassment on the basis of any protected characteristic is strictly prohibited. Under this policy, harassment is verbal or physical conduct that denigrates or shows hostility or aversion toward an individual, and has the purpose or effect of unreasonably interfering with an individual's work performance, or otherwise adversely affects an individual's employment opportunities.

Harassing conduct includes but is not limited to epithets, slurs, or negative stereotyping; threatening, intimidating, or hostile acts; denigrating jokes; and written or graphic material that denigrates or shows hostility or aversion toward an individual or group and that is placed on walls or elsewhere on the employer's premises or circulated in the workplace.

Sexual harassment constitutes discrimination and is illegal under federal and state laws. For the purposes of this policy, sexual harassment may include unwelcome advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature by a legislator when, for example:

1. submission to such conduct is made either explicitly or implicitly a term or condition of rank, privilege, or legislative assignment for a legislator; and
2. that conduct has the purpose or effect of unreasonably interfering with an individual legislator, staff, or third-party's work performance or creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive work environment.

Sexual harassment may include a range of subtle and not-so-subtle behaviors and may involve individuals of the same or different gender. Depending on the circumstances, these behaviors may include but are not limited to unwanted

sexual advances or requests for sexual favors; sexual jokes and innuendo; verbal abuse of a sexual nature; commentary about an individual's body, sexual prowess, or sexual deficiencies; leering, whistling, or touching; insulting or obscene comments or gestures; display in the workplace of sexually suggestive objects or pictures; and other physical, verbal, or visual conduct of a sexual nature.

B. RETALIATION - The Legislative Branch prohibits retaliation against any individual who reports discrimination or harassment or participates in an investigation of those reports.

Retaliation against an individual who in good faith complains or participates in an investigation about sexual or other unlawful harassment is a violation of this policy and is prohibited by state and federal law. Retaliation is a form of harassment and will be handled in the same manner as other forms of harassment.

2. Reporting and Inquiry or Investigation Procedure When Alleged Offender Is a Legislator

A person may discuss situations with the Legislative Branch Human Resources Manager or Chief Legal Counsel in the Legislative Services Division to determine whether to make a complaint to one of the leadership listed below. A person who believes that they have been the subject of any form of discrimination, harassment, or retaliation by a legislator¹ or has witnessed a form of discrimination, harassment, or retaliation by a legislator may report the conduct, by filing a complaint either verbally or in writing, to one of the leadership listed below:

- a. Senate President or Speaker of the House
- b. Senate Majority Leader or Minority Leader or House Majority Leader or Minority Leader;
- c. a Senate Majority or Minority Whip or House Majority or Minority Whip; or

¹ Note: If the alleged offender is a Legislative Branch employee, the report may be made to the employee's supervisor, director, or the Legislative Services Human Resource Manager. If the alleged offender is the director the employee should report the conduct to one of the legislators listed above or the Human Resource Manager. If the person alleged to have violated this policy is not a legislator or a legislative branch employee (e.g., a member of the public or the media, executive or judicial branch state employee, a lobbyist, or a vendor or contractor), the person making the complaint or receiving the report shall report it to the Legislative Services Human Resources Manager who will assist in determining to whom the appropriate person is to report.

- d. to the Legislative Services Division Human Resource Manager.

A Discrimination or Harassment Complaint Resolution Form is included as an Appendix to this policy. The person receiving the report shall contact the Legislative Services Division Human Resources Manager. It is required for a member of the leadership team who receives a complaint to inform their respective caucus leader and presiding officer of the complaint. The person making the complaint and any person receiving information regarding the complaint shall treat the information in strict confidence and shared only as provided in this policy until such time a conclusion is reached.

Nothing in this procedure precludes a complainant from requesting a member of the Legislative Conduct Panel, another legislative leader receiving the complaint, or the Human Resources Manager to first confer informally with the alleged offender to apprise the offender of the complaint and to gain assurance that the offensive conduct will be discontinued. A complainant may withdraw a complaint at any time, but the Human Resources Manager shall maintain the documentation in confidence as provided in Section 3 – Records and Confidentiality.

The Human Resources Manager shall document the complaint and contact the Legislative Conduct Panel which consists of the Senate President, Speaker of the House, the Senate Minority Leader, and the House Minority Leader. If one of the leaders is the subject of the complaint, is the complainant, requests recusal for a conflict of interest, or is not available, the Pro Tempore or Minority Whip of the same caucus shall serve as the replacement or appoint a designee. The Human Resources Manager shall report back to the complainant that the complaint was received, documented, and provided to the Legislative Conduct Panel.

The Legislative Conduct Panel must convene within 3 business days during session or within 15 business days during the interim to discuss the complaint and allegation and conduct a preliminary inquiry with the assistance of the Human Resource Manager and the Chief Legal Counsel. The Legislative Conduct Panel's discussions and inquiries are considered closed personnel investigations until such time as a final resolution of a substantiated claim is reached. The Chief Legal Counsel and Human Resources Manager will staff the panel and assist the Legislative Conduct Panel to convene.

The procedure for inquiry or investigation into a discrimination or harassment report must include but is not limited to:

1. securing a statement from the person reporting the discrimination or;
2. securing a statement from the subject of the complaint;
3. holding individual interviews or group meetings;
4. weighing the facts;
5. applying pertinent laws, rules, policies, or practices to the facts surrounding the report of harassment.

The preliminary inquiry may result in a determination whether the complaint:

1. is frivolous and no action must be taken;
2. has merit and a resolution may be made without further investigation; or
3. has merit and a third-party investigation is necessary.

After the preliminary inquiry, if a third-party investigation is determined to be necessary or if a consensus of the Legislative Conduct Panel cannot be reached, the third-party investigation shall be conducted by a person who is experienced in employment law and in the investigation of claims of discrimination or harassment. The Chief Legal Counsel or appropriate designee shall procure assistance from persons outside the branch as needed in a timely manner. The Human Resources Manager may provide the complainant updates of the status of the process.

The results of a third-party investigation must be provided to the Legislative Conduct Panel who will make a recommendation for appropriate corrective action to the appropriate authority.

A person making a complaint may at any time file a complaint with the Montana Human Rights Commission as provided in Title 49, chapter 2, MCA. Montana Human Rights Bureau, 33 S. Last Chance Gulch, Suite 2, P.O. Box 1728, Helena, MT 59624, (406) 444-4356, (800) 542-0807, Montana Relay Service 711.

3. Records and Confidentiality

There is a compelling state interest in the elimination of discrimination and harassment in Montana pursuant to Art. II,

sec. 4 of the Montana Constitution (1972). In some cases, the interest of a person in viewing material related to a complaint or gathered as part of the investigation will compete with individual privacy interests. A legislator is in a position of public trust and the public must trust that a legislator is fit to perform the legislator's duties. This is balanced with need to maintain integrity in the legislative process in a political environment.

A record of each complaint and resolution shall be maintained in confidence by the Legislative Services Division as provided for in the Legislative Branch Public Records Management Retention Schedule. If the result of the preliminary inquiry or investigation is a finding that the charge of discrimination or harassment is frivolous or is not substantiated, a copy of the finding must be placed in the confidential human resources file in the Legislative Services Division Human Resources Office.

Until final disposition of a substantiated claim, all information will be maintained on a confidential basis to the greatest extent possible in order to protect victims' or witnesses' privacy. Only those who need to know in order to accomplish the purpose of the investigation shall be provided with the identity of the complainant and the allegations. All parties, including the complainant and the alleged harasser, contacted in the course of an investigation shall be advised of the necessity of confidentiality.

Corrective action and confidentiality regarding members are constitutionally limited with regard to formal discipline, censure, or expulsion.

In order to balance the public's right to know and individual privacy interests, the Legislative Services Division, on behalf of the Legislative Branch, will take the following steps upon receiving a request for information:

1. When a person requests information or materials for which an individual right of privacy has been asserted or might be asserted, Legislative Services Division will contact the parties, including the name of the member in the complaint, the complainant, and those who have been treated as witnesses, and provide them an opportunity to object to the release of this information.

2. If there is an objection to the release of information, and the request is prior to a final disposition of a substantiated claim, the requestor will receive a redacted document based on the privacy rights upheld/claimed.

Except for records made public in the course of a hearing held under Joint Rule 10-85 and records that are open for public inspection pursuant to Montana law, a complaint and records obtained or prepared by the Legislative Conduct Panel in connection with an investigation or complaint are confidential documents and are not open for public inspection until the completion of its investigation if the release of information would threaten the integrity of a pending investigation. The complainant and the person who is the subject of the complaint shall maintain the confidentiality of the complaint and any related documents released to the parties until a decision is issued.

However, the complainant, person who is the subject of a complaint, or a witness may waive, in writing, the right of confidentiality of their own identifying information provided in this subsection. If a waiver is filed with the Human Resources Manager by the complainant, the person who is the subject of the complaint, or a witness, the information in the complaint and any related documents regarding the person who has waived confidentiality must be open for public inspection. The decision issued after investigation, with the complainant's and witnesses' identities redacted, is a public record open to inspection.

4. Findings, Discipline, and Corrective Action

After an investigation, the Legislative Conduct Panel must make a determination of the appropriate action. The Legislative Conduct Panel must take into consideration the best interests of the complainant.

If the result of the inquiry is a finding that the charge of discrimination or harassment is substantiated and the offender is a legislator, the Legislative Conduct Panel shall ensure that actions recommended to be taken must be under the purview and authority of the person or body imposing the sanction, i.e. Speaker, President, Committee on Committees, or [the Ethics Committee].

The Legislative Conduct Panel shall make a recommendation to the appropriate authority or to the [Ethics Committee] for corrective action. The Legislative Conduct Panel shall inform the complainant and the legislator against whom the complaint was made of the recommendation.

Corrective actions may include, but are not limited to those outlined below:

A. The Legislative Conduct Panel may recommend corrective actions such as training, referral to counseling, disciplinary action, or denying access to the complainant as determined to be appropriate under the circumstances. If an offender refuses to comply, the Legislative Conduct Panel may reconvene for further determination.

Any corrective actions required of the legislator by the Legislative Conduct Panel or other authority must be documented and filed with the Human Resources Manager. Completion of corrective actions must be documented by the authority imposing the corrective action and must be reported back to the Human Resources Manager.

B. The Legislative Conduct Panel may recommend that the Speaker or Committee on Committees remove a legislator from a committee assignment or chair position.

C. The Legislative Conduct Panel may refer the matter to the [Ethics Committee] of the applicable chamber, for determination whether the offending legislator is subject to discipline, censure, or expulsion, as appropriate.

The [Ethics Committee] shall hear the matter in accordance with its procedures and make a recommendation to the body. Formal charges require a hearing by the [Ethics Committee] on the complaint and a formal vote ranging from no action as appropriate because no improper conduct occurred to a finding that improper conduct was found by clear and convincing [high legal standard] evidence as to warrant formal discipline. The member who is charged, shall be informed in writing by the committee chair of the presentation of the charge or charges in the committee report to the appropriate chamber and be given an opportunity to be heard in the member's own defense. The [Ethics Committee] shall ensure that the victim has a role in the hearing.

The appropriate chamber, by a majority vote, may dismiss the charge or charges without a hearing, or with notice and an opportunity to be heard in the member's own defense, censure a member or, upon a two-thirds vote of all the members of the appropriate chamber, discipline or expel a member.

D. The Legislative Conduct Panel may take any other action that may be considered appropriate, including referral to law enforcement.

5. Training

Participation in training on discrimination and harassment prevention shall be provided for all legislators and presiding officers, and is mandatory for all permanent branch staff and House and Senate staff, including pages and aides. Training will be offered on an annual basis for permanent staff and prior to or at the beginning of each regular legislative session. Training will include legal concepts underlying discrimination and harassment law, expectations for the positive culture of the Legislative Branch, and discussion and examples of appropriate and inappropriate behaviors.

Discrimination or Harassment Complaint Resolution Form

Alternative accessible formats of this document are available on request.

Any person involved in the legislative process may use this form to file a complaint against a legislator based on discrimination or harassment (including a hostile work environment) based on any of the protected classes identified in this form. Individuals should submit this form to the agency where the event is believed to have occurred.

Complainant's Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Phone: _____

Basis of Complaint:

Name of person you believe harassed or discriminated against you: _____

Chamber or Address: _____

Phone: _____

Date, time, and place of the incident(s): _____

Documentation:

Please attach copies of any documents or material you believe are relevant.

Witnesses:

Did anyone witness the incident(s) of discrimination or harassment? If so, please list names and phone numbers of any witnesses to the incident(s). Use additional pages, if necessary.

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Statement:

Please describe the incident(s) as clearly and concisely as possible. Provide as much detail as you can recall, including when and where the events occurred and who said what to whom. Explain why you believe the conduct or treatment was discriminatory or harassment. Use additional pages, if necessary.

Action Sought:

Please describe what you would like to see done to correct the situation.

Complaint Authorization

I understand that complete confidentiality cannot be maintained in the process of handling informal and formal complaints. I agree that this statement of allegations may be used during the investigation of the case. I further consent that this statement and certain information in the complaint file may be disclosed to certain authorized persons including the person I believe discriminated against me, in order to resolve my complaint, conduct fact finding, or implement remedial action. I also understand that information may also be disclosed if required by law, rule, regulation, or court order.

I affirm that this complaint statement is true, accurate, and complete to the best of my knowledge.

Signature of Complainant

Date

Mailing or Email Address

Phone number

In addition to the internal complaint process, complaints may be filed with the following agencies:

Montana Human Rights Bureau, 1625 11th Avenue 33 S. Last Chance Gulch, Suite 2, P.O. Box 1728, Helena, MT 59624-1728, (406) 444-2884 4356, (800) 542-0807, TTY (406) 444-0532 Montana Relay Service 711.

-end of form-

SENATE RULES

CHAPTER 1

Administration

S10-10. Officers of the Senate. The officers of the Senate include a president, a president pro tempore, a majority leader, a minority leader, and majority and minority whips.

S10-20. Term of officers. The term of office for the officers and employees of the Senate established by rule is until the succeeding Legislature is organized. This rule may not be construed to mean that short-term session staff will be full-time employees during an interim.

S10-30. President, President pro tempore, and other officers. (1) The Senate shall, at the beginning of each regular session, and at other times as may be necessary, elect a Senator as President and a Senator as President pro tempore.

(2) The Senate shall choose its other officers and is the judge of the elections, returns, and qualifications of the Senators.

S10-40. Voting by presiding officer. Any Senator, when acting as presiding officer of the Senate, shall vote as any other Senator.

S10-50. Presiding officer and duties. (1) The presiding officer of the Senate is the President of the Senate, who must be chosen in accordance with law.

(2) The President shall take the chair on every legislative day at the hour to which the Senate adjourned at the last sitting.

(3) The President may name a Senator to perform the duties of the President when the President pro tempore is not present in the Senate chamber. The Senator who is named is vested during that time with all the powers of the President.

(4) (a) The President has general control over the assignment of rooms for the Senate and shall preserve order and decorum. The President may order the galleries and lobbies cleared in case of disturbance or disorderly conduct.

(b) Office space currently assigned to any member of the minority may be changed only with the consent of the minority leader.

(5) The President shall sign or electronically authenticate all necessary certifications of the Senate, including enrolled bills and resolutions, journals, and subpoenas. The President's signature or electronic authentication must be attested by the Secretary of the Senate.

(6) The President shall approve the calendar for each legislative day.

(7) The President is the chief administrative officer of the Senate, with authority for the general supervision of all Senate employees.

(8) The President of the Senate is the authorized approving authority of the Senate during the term of election to that office.

(9) The President shall refer bills to committee upon introduction or reception in the office of the Secretary of the Senate within 3 legislative days of receipt.

(10) The President shall request fiscal notes on all legislation stamped by Legislative Services Division as potentially requiring a fiscal note within 5 legislative days of introduction. The President shall approve any request from the Office of Budget and Program Planning for fiscal notes or amendments to fiscal notes.

(11) The President shall sign an enrolled bill within 14 legislative days from receipt of the enrolled bill. If the President fails to sign the enrolled bill within 14 legislative days, the bill must be transmitted by the Secretary of the Senate to the Governor or the House as applicable.

S10-60. Succession. (1) In case of the absence or disqualification of the President, the President pro tempore of the Senate shall perform the duties of the President until the vacancy is filled or the disability removed.

(2) Whenever the President pro tempore of the Senate is of the opposite political party from that of the President, the following procedure applies:

(a) If the President dies while in office, the members of the Senate have the right to immediately nominate and elect an acting President of the same party.

(b) If the President is absent for 2 or more legislative days or at any time after the 85th legislative day or at any time during

special session of the Legislature and wants to appoint an acting President during the President's absence, the President may do so, or the members of the Senate have the right to immediately nominate and elect an acting President of the President's caucus.

(c) An acting President of the Senate has the powers of the President and supersedes the powers of the President pro tempore.

S10-70. President-elect. The President-elect nominated by the appropriate party caucus has the responsibility and authority to assume the duties of President of the Senate.

S10-90. Majority Leader. The primary functions of the majority leader usually relate to floor duties. The duties of the majority leader may include but are not limited to:

(1) being the lead speaker for the majority party during floor debates;

(2) arranging legislation on the Committee of the Whole agenda in the order in which the bills will be considered, unless otherwise ordered by the Senate or Committee of the Whole;

(3) helping the President develop the calendar;

(4) assisting the President with program development, policy formation, and policy decisions;

(5) presiding over the majority caucus meetings;

(6) serving as chair or designee of the rules committee; and

(7) other duties as assigned by the caucus.

S10-100. Majority Whip. The duties of the majority whip may include but are not limited to:

(1) assisting the majority leader;

(2) ensuring member attendance;

(3) counting votes;

(4) generally communicating the majority position; and

(5) other duties as assigned by the caucus.

S10-110. Minority Leader. The minority leader is the principal leader of the minority caucus. The duties of the minority leader may include but are not limited to:

- (1) developing the minority position;
- (2) negotiating with the majority party;
- (3) directing minority caucus activities on the chamber floor;
- (4) leading debate for the minority; and
- (5) other duties as assigned by the caucus.

S10-120. Minority Whip. The major responsibilities for the minority whip may include but are not limited to:

- (1) assisting the minority leader on the floor;
- (2) counting votes;
- (3) ensuring attendance of minority party members; and
- (4) other duties as assigned by the caucus.

S10-130. Senate employees. (1) In addition to the employees appointed by the President, the Senate shall employ staff recommended by the leadership as necessary to perform the functions of the Senate.

(2) The Secretary of the Senate shall designate a secretary to take and prepare electronic audio recording logs of committee meetings for each standing committee. A committee secretary is immediately responsible to the chair, but shall work under the overall direction of the Secretary of the Senate, subject to authority of the committee chair.

(3) The President, majority leader, and minority leader may each appoint a private secretary.

S10-140. Secretary of the Senate and duties. The Secretary of the Senate works under the direction of the President. The responsibilities of the Secretary of the Senate include:

- (1) performing the duties prescribed by law or other provisions of these rules;
- (2) compiling and maintaining the calendar for approval by the President;

(3) keeping the leadership informed on the progress and workload of the Senate;

(4) transmitting bills with appropriate messages to the House of Representatives as instructed by action of the Senate;

(5) keeping and maintaining records of the Senate; and

(6) supervision of the Senate employees, except as otherwise provided.

S10-150. Sergeant-at-Arms duties. Under the direction of the President and the Secretary of the Senate, the Sergeant-at-Arms shall:

(1) maintain order as directed by the President or chair of the Committee of the Whole;

(2) enforce the lobbying rules of the Senate;

(3) supervise the employees assigned to the Sergeant's office;

(4) receive, distribute, and maintain supplies, equipment, and other inventory of the Senate, along with records of purchase and disposal in accordance with law;

(5) issue floor passes to qualified applicants as provided in S20-55; and

(6) perform duties as required by other rules and the Senate.

S10-160. Legislative interns. Each Senator may designate one person of legal age to serve as an intern during the session. Exceptions to this policy may be approved by the Rules Committee. The Senator shall register an intern with the Secretary of the Senate and arrange for the purchase of a name tag with the Sergeant-at-Arms.

S10-170. Senate journal. (1) The Senate shall keep and authenticate a journal of its proceedings as required by law and the rules.

(2) The Secretary of the Senate will supervise the preparation of the journal by the journal clerks.

(3) In addition to the proceedings required by law to be recorded, the journal must include:

(a) committee reports;

(b) every motion, the name of the Senator presenting it, and its disposition;

(c) the introduction of legislation in the Senate;

(d) consideration of legislation subsequent to introduction;

(e) roll call votes;

(f) messages from the Governor and the House of Representatives;

(g) every amendment, the name of the Senator presenting it, and its disposition;

(h) the names of Senators and their votes on any question upon a request by two Senators before a vote is taken; and

(i) any other records the Senate directs by rule or action.

(4) The Secretary of the Senate shall provide information that may be necessary for the preparation of the daily journal for printing by the Legislative Services Division. Upon approval by the President, the daily journal must be reproduced and made available.

(5) Any Senator may examine the daily journal and propose corrections. Without objection by the Senate, the President may direct the correction to be made.

(6) The President shall authenticate the original daily journal, from time to time, and the Secretary of the Senate shall, as appropriate, deliver it to the Legislative Services Division to be prepared for publication and distribution in accordance with law.

CHAPTER 2

Decorum

S20-10. Questions of order – appeal. The President of the Senate shall decide all questions of order, subject to an appeal by any Senator seconded by two other Senators. A Senator may not speak more than once on an appeal without the consent of a majority of the Senate.

S20-20. Violation of rules – call to order – appeal. (1) If a Senator, in speaking or otherwise, violates the rules of the Senate, the President shall, or the majority leader or minority floor leader may, call the Senator to order, in which case the Senator called to order must be seated immediately.

(2) The Senator called to order may move for an appeal to the Senate, and if the motion is seconded by two Senators, the matter must be submitted to the Senate for determination by majority vote. The motion is nondebatable.

(3) If the decision of the Senate is in favor of the Senator called to order, the Senator may proceed. If the decision is against the Senator, the Senator may not proceed.

(4) If a Senator is called to order, the matter may be referred to the Rules Committee by the minority or majority leader. The Committee may recommend to the Senate that the Senator be censured or be subject to other action. Censure consists of an official public reprimand of a Senator for inappropriate behavior. The Senate shall act upon the recommendation of the Committee.

S20-30. Questions of privilege – restrictions. (1) Questions of privilege in order of precedence are those:

(a) affecting the collective rights, safety, dignity, or integrity of the proceedings of the Senate; and

(b) affecting the rights, reputation, or conduct of individual Senators in their capacity as Senators.

(2) A Senator may not address the Senate on a question of privilege between the time:

(a) an undebatable motion is offered and the vote is taken on the motion;

(b) the previous question is ordered and the vote is taken on the proposition included under the previous question;

(c) a motion to lay on the table is offered and the vote is taken on the motion; or

(d) a bill sponsor closes on the bill and the question is called by the presiding officer with a vote taken on the motion.

S20-40. Recognition by chair. A Senator desiring to speak shall indicate to the presiding officer and, once being recognized, shall speak. When two or more Senators indicate a desire to speak at the same time, the presiding officer shall determine the order of the speakers.

S20-50. Floor privileges. (1) When the Senate is in session no person is permitted in the chambers except:

- (a) legislators;
- (b) legislative officers and employees whose presence is necessary for the conduct of business of the session;
- (c) representatives of the media with a floor pass;
- (d) former legislators (not currently registered as lobbyists); and
- (e) legislators' spouses and children.

(2) The President may make exceptions for visiting dignitaries.

(3) Beginning 1 hour before and ending one-half hour after adjournment, no person is permitted in the chambers except those authorized as exceptions under subsection (1) or (2).

S20-55. Representatives of the media – floor pass.

(1) Representatives of the media are not permitted in chambers without a valid floor pass.

(2) The Sergeant-at-Arms, at the direction of the President, controls when and where individuals with a floor pass will be granted access to chambers. An individual with a floor pass is not guaranteed access to the floor and may be denied future access for violating rules of decorum.

S20-60. Communications to Senate. A communication to the Senate must be addressed to the President and must bear the name of the person submitting it. The President shall decide if the communication bears including in the calendar.

S20-70. Distribution of materials on floor – exception.
(1) Subject to subsection (2), material may not be distributed on the Senators' desks in the chamber unless the material bears the signature of the bearer and a Senator and has been approved by the President.

(2) Subsection (1) does not apply to material written by staff at the request of a Senator and placed on the Senator's desk.

CHAPTER 3

Committees

S30-10. Committee appointments. (1) There is a Committee on Committees consisting of six members of the majority party. If the Senate is evenly divided between parties, the committee shall consist of six Senators, three from the majority party and three from the minority party.

(2) (a) The Committee on Committees shall, with the approval of the Senate, appoint the members of Senate standing committees, joint committees, and interim committees.

(b) All Committee on Committees minority member committee appointments must be approved by the minority leader.

(3) The minority leader shall designate the ranking minority member for each standing committee.

(4) The President of the Senate shall appoint all conference committees, with the advance concurrence of the majority leader and minority leader.

(5) (a) The Senate, by a three-fifths vote, may create and appoint the membership of select committees:

(i) upon request of a Senator through motion during a session; or

(ii) when the legislature is not in session, if 10 or more Senators request a poll in writing pursuant to subsection (5)(b), the Legislative Services Division shall poll the members of the Senate to determine if three-fifths of the members of the Senate are in favor of creating a select committee and the appointment of the members to the select committee to pursue the declaration and actions provided under subsection (5)(b).

(b) The request must:

(i) state the conditions warranting the poll;

(ii) contain a declaration that addresses the action sought or issue to be addressed and the type of action to be pursued by the select committee; and

(iii) contain a list of the appointed members of the select committee.

(c) Within 5 calendar days after receiving a request, the Legislative Services Division shall send a ballot to all Senators by using any reasonable and reliable means, including electronic delivery, that contains:

(i) an explanation of the purpose of the creation of the select committee and the appointed membership that is subject to the vote; and

(ii) the date by which senators shall return the ballot, which may not be more than 14 calendar days after the date the ballots are sent.

(d) (i) A Senator may cast and return a vote by delivering the ballot in person, by mailing, or by sending the ballot by facsimile transmission or electronic mail to the Legislative Services Division.

(ii) A Senator may not change the Senator's vote after the ballot is received by the Legislative Services Division.

(iii) The Legislative Services Division shall tally the votes within 3 working days after the date for return of the votes.

(iv) If three-fifths of the members of the Senate vote to approve the declaration and creation and membership of the select committee, the ballot has the force and effect authorizing the action requested.

(v) A ballot that is not returned by the deadline established by the Legislative Services Division is considered a vote against the declaration and creation and membership of the select committee.

(6) The Senate may change the membership of any committee on 1 day's notice.

S30-20. Standing committees – classification. (1) The standing committees of the Senate are as follows:

(a) class one committees:

(i) Business, Labor, and Economic Affairs;

(ii) Finance and Claims;

(iii) Judiciary; and

(iv) Taxation;

(b) class two committees:

(i) Highways and Transportation;

(ii) Local Government;

(iii) Natural Resources;

(iv) Public Health, Welfare, and Safety; and

(v) State Administration;

(c) class three committees:

(i) Agriculture, Livestock, and Irrigation;

(ii) Education and Cultural Resources;

(iii) Energy, Technology, and Federal Relations; and

(iv) Fish and Game; and

(d) on-call committees:

(i) Ethics;

(ii) Legislative Administration; and

(iii) Rules.

(2) A class 1 committee is scheduled to meet Monday through Friday. A class 2 committee is scheduled to meet Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. A class 3 committee is scheduled to meet Tuesday and Thursday. Unless a class is prescribed for a committee, it meets upon the call of the chair.

(3) The Legislative Council shall review the workload of the standing committees to determine if any change is indicated in the class of a standing committee for the next legislative session. The Legislative Council's recommendations must be submitted to the leadership nominated or elected at the presession caucus.

S30-40. Ex officio members – quorum. (1) A quorum of a committee is a majority of the members of the committee. A quorum of a committee must be physically or remotely present at a meeting to act officially. A quorum of a committee may transact business, and a majority of the quorum, even though it is a minority of the committee, is sufficient for committee action.

(2) The President, the majority leader, and the minority leader are ex officio nonvoting members of all committees in order to establish a quorum. As ex officio nonvoting members of a committee, the President, majority leader, and minority leader have the privileges of a committee member pursuant to S30-70(13)(a), (13)(c), and (13)(d).

S30-50. Chair's duties. (1) The chair of a committee is the presiding officer of that committee and is responsible for:

(a) maintaining order within the committee room and its environs;

(b) scheduling hearings and executive action;

(c) supervising committee work, including the appointment of subcommittees to act on a formal or informal basis;

(d) authenticating committee reports by signing them and submitting them promptly to the Secretary of the Senate. The chair shall sign business reports reflecting action taken in each committee meeting that enable the preparation of committee audio recording logs.

(e) enforcing fire code occupancy requirements.

(2) The Secretary of the Senate shall arrange to have the audio recording log copied in an electronic format. An electronic copy will be provided to the Legislative Services Division.

S30-60. Meetings – notice – purpose – audio recording log. (1) All meetings of committees must be open to the public at all times, subject always to the power and authority of the chair to maintain safety, order, and decorum. The date, time, and place of committee meetings must be announced.

(2) Notice of a committee hearing must be made by posting the date, time, and subject of the hearing online and in a conspicuous public place not less than 3 legislative days in advance of the hearing. This 3-day notice requirement does not apply to hearings scheduled:

(a) prior to the third legislative day;

(b) less than 10 legislative days before the transmittal deadline applicable to the subject of the hearing;

(c) to consider confirmation of a gubernatorial appointment received less than 10 legislative days before the last scheduled day of a legislative session; or

(d) due to appropriate circumstances.

(3) When a committee hearing is scheduled with less than 3 days' notice, the committee chair shall use all practical means to disseminate notice of the hearing to the public.

(4) Notice of conference committee hearings must be given as provided in Joint Rule 30-30.

(5) A committee or subcommittee may be assembled for:

(a) a public hearing at which testimony is to be heard and at which official action may be taken on bills, resolutions, or other matters;

(b) a formal meeting at which the committees may discuss and take official action on bills, resolutions, or other matters without testimony; or

(c) a work session at which the committee may discuss bills, resolutions, or other matters but take no formal action.

(6) All committees meet at the call of the chair or upon the request of a majority of the members of the committee.

(7) A committee may not meet during the time the Senate is in session without leave of the President. Any Senator attending a meeting while the Senate is in session must be considered excused to attend business of the Senate subject to a call of the Senate.

(8) All meetings of committees must be recorded and the audio recording log must be available to the public within a reasonable time after the meeting. The official record of the committee meeting is the audio recording of the meeting and the audio recording log must contain at least the following information:

(a) the time and place of each meeting of the committee;

(b) committee members physically or remotely present, excused, or absent;

(c) the names, cities, and states of persons appearing before the committee, whom each represents, and whether the person is a proponent, opponent, or other witness;

(d) all motions and their disposition;

(e) the results of all votes; and

(f) all testimony and exhibits.

(9) If a bill is heard in a joint committee, it must be referred to a standing committee. The standing committee is not required to hold an additional hearing but shall take executive action and may report the bill to the Committee of the Whole.

(10) A bill or resolution may not be considered or become a law unless referred to a committee and returned from a committee.

(11) A bill may be rereferred at any time before its passage.

S30-70. Procedures – member privileges. (1) The chair shall notify the sponsor of any bill pending before the committee of the time and place it will be considered.

(2) A standing or select committee may not hear legislation unless the sponsor or one of the cosponsors is physically or remotely present or unless the sponsor has given written consent.

(3) (a) Subject to subsection (3)(b), the committee shall act on each bill in its possession:

(i) by reporting the bill out of the committee:

(A) with the recommendation that it be referred to another committee;

(B) favorably as to passage; or

(C) unfavorably; or

(ii) by tabling the measure in committee.

(b) At the written request of the sponsor made at least 48 hours prior to a scheduled hearing, a committee shall finally dispose of a bill without a hearing. Except as provided in S30-60(9), a bill may not be reported from a committee without a hearing.

(4) The committee may not report a bill to the Senate without recommendation.

(5) In reporting a measure out of committee, a committee shall include in its report:

- (a) the measure in the form reported out;
- (b) the recommendation of the committee;
- (c) an identification of all proposed changes; and
- (d) a fiscal note, if required.

(6) If a measure is taken from a committee and brought to the Senate floor for debate on second reading on that day without a committee recommendation, the bill does not include amendments formally adopted by the committee because committee amendments are merely recommendations to the Senate that are formally adopted when the committee report is accepted by the Senate.

(7) A second to any motion offered in a committee is not required in order for the motion to be considered by the committee.

(8) The vote of each member on all committee actions must be recorded and reported in the committee audio recording log. All motions may be adopted only on the affirmative vote of a majority of the members voting.

(9) A motion to take a bill from the table may be adopted by the affirmative vote of a majority of the members physically or remotely present at any meeting of the committee.

(10) An action formally taken by a committee may not be altered in the committee except by reconsideration and further formal action of the committee.

(11) A committee may reconsider any action as long as the matter remains in the possession of the committee. A bill is in the possession of the committee until a report on the bill is made to the Committee of the Whole. A committee member need not have voted with the prevailing side in order to move reconsideration.

(12) The chair shall decide points of order.

(13) The privileges of committee members, present physically or remotely, include the following:

- (a) to participate freely in committee discussions and debate;
- (b) to offer motions;
- (c) to assert points of order and privilege;

- (d) to question witnesses upon recognition by the chair;
- (e) to offer any amendment to any bill; and
- (f) to vote, either by being present or by proxy, using a standard form.

(14) Any meeting of a committee held through the use of telephone or other electronic communication must be conducted in accordance with Chapter 3 of the Senate Rules.

(15) A committee may consolidate into one bill any two or more related bills referred to it whenever legislation may be simplified by the consolidation.

(16) Committee procedure must be informal, but when any questions arise on committee procedure, the rules or practices of the Senate are applicable except as stated in the Senate Rules.

S30-80. Public testimony – decorum – time restrictions.

(1) Subject to Joint Rule 30-05, remote or in-person testimony from proponents, opponents, and informational witnesses must be allowed on every bill or resolution before a standing or select committee. All persons, other than the sponsor, offering testimony shall register on the committee witness list or by electronic means.

(2) (a) Any person wishing to offer testimony to a committee hearing a bill or resolution must be given a reasonable opportunity to do so, orally or in writing, subject to time constraints. Written testimony may not be required of any witness, but all witnesses may submit a statement in writing for the committee's official record.

(b) A person who is an employee of the state or a political subdivision of the state that is offering testimony on behalf of the state or political subdivision shall state in the person's oral or written testimony the specific entity or state officeholder that they are representing.

(3) The chair may order actions to maintain order in the committee meeting. During committee meetings, visitors may not speak unless called upon by the chair. Restrictions on time available for testimony may be announced.

(4) The number of people in a committee room may not exceed the maximum posted by the State Fire Marshall. The chair shall maintain that limit.

(5) In any committee meeting, the use of cameras, television, radio, or any form of telecommunication equipment is allowed, but the chair may designate the areas of the hearing room from which the equipment must be operated. Cell phone use is at the discretion of the chair.

S30-100. Absentee or proxy voting. Standing and select committees may by a majority vote of the committee authorize Senators to vote in absentia. Authorization for absentee or proxy voting must be reflected in the committee audio recording log.

S30-140. Reconsideration in committee. A committee may at any time prior to submitting a report to the Secretary of the Senate reconsider its previous action on legislation.

S30-150. Committee requested legislation. (1) (a) Except as provided in subsection (1)(b), at least three-fourths of all the members of a standing committee must have voted in favor of the question to allow the committee to request the drafting and introduction of legislation.

(b) The Finance and Claims Committee may request the drafting and introduction of legislation by a majority vote of all of the members of the committee.

(2) The chair of a committee shall introduce, or shall designate a member of the committee to introduce, legislation requested by the committee. The introduced bill must be referred to the requesting committee.

S30-160. Ethics Committee. (1) The Ethics Committee shall meet only upon the call of the chair after the referral of an issue from the Rules Committee or the Legislator Conduct Panel or to consider a request for a determination pursuant to subsection (4). The Rules Committee may be convened to consider the referral of a matter to the Ethics Committee upon the request of a Senator. The Rules Committee shall prepare a written statement of the specific question or issue to be addressed by the Ethics Committee. Except for a referral from the Legislative Conduct Panel, the issues referred to the Ethics Committee must be related to the actions of a Senator during a legislative session.

(2) The matters that may be referred to the Ethics Committee are:

(a) a violation of:

(i) 2-2-103;

(ii) 2-2-104;

(iii) 2-2-111;

(iv) 2-2-112; or

(v) Joint Rule 10-85;

(b) the use or threatened use of a Senator's position for personal or personal business benefit or advantage; or

(c) any other violation of law by a Senator while acting in the capacity of Senator.

(3) If there is a recommendation from the Ethics Committee, the recommendation is made to the Senate.

(4) A Senator may seek a determination from the Ethics Committee concerning the possibility of a personal conflict of interest.

CHAPTER 4

Legislation

S40-10. Types of legislation. The only types of legislation that may be introduced in the Senate are those that have been drafted and approved by the Legislative Services Division and signed by a Senator as chief sponsor. The types of legislation allowed include:

- (1) bills of any subject, except appropriations;
- (2) joint resolutions, which may be used for any purpose specified in Joint Rule 40-60; and
- (3) simple resolutions, which may:
 - (a) adopt or amend Senate rules;
 - (b) provide for the internal affairs of the Senate;
 - (c) express confirmation of the Governor's appointments; or
 - (d) make recommendations concerning the districting and apportionment plan as provided by Article V, section 14(4), of the Montana Constitution.

S40-20. Introduction – first reading. (1) Upon receiving a bill or resolution from a Senator, the Secretary of the Senate shall assign an appropriate sequential number, which constitutes introduction of the legislation. Legislation properly introduced or received in the Senate must be announced across the rostrum and public notice provided. This announcement constitutes first reading, and no debate or motion is in order except that a Senator may question adherence to rules. Acknowledgment by the Secretary of the Senate of receipt of legislation transmitted from the House commences the time limit for consideration of the legislation. All legislation received by the Senate may be referred to a committee prior to being read across the rostrum.

(2) Bills and resolutions preintroduced as provided in Joint Rule 40-40 may be assigned to committee by the President, posted online, and printed prior to the legislative session. The Legislative Services Division is responsible for ensuring the preintroduction intent from each Senator and presenting the preintroduced legislation to the Secretary of the Senate.

(3) Upon referral to committee by the President, the Secretary of the Senate shall publicly post a listing of the bill or resolution by a summary of its title, together with a notation of the committee to which it has been assigned.

(4) The sponsor may ask the Legislative Services Division to change or correct a short title used on the bill status system.

S40-30. Cosponsors and additional sponsors. (1) Prior to submitting legislation to the Secretary of the Senate for introduction, the chief sponsor may add representatives and senators as cosponsors. A legislator shall sign the cosponsor form attached to the legislation in order to be added as a cosponsor.

(2) After legislation is submitted for introduction, sponsors may be added on motion of the chief sponsor at any time prior to a standing committee report on the bill or resolution. Forms for adding sponsors will be supplied on request by the Secretary of the Senate.

(3) Upon passage of the motion, the names of the additional sponsors will be printed in the journal and the form containing the signatures of the additional sponsors will be forwarded to the Legislative Services Division with the original bill for the inclusion of the names in subsequent printings of the bill or resolution.

S40-40. Reading limitations. (1) Every bill must be read three times prior to passage, either by title or by summary of title as provided in these rules.

(2) A bill or resolution may not have more than one reading on the same day except the last legislative day.

(3) An amendment may not be offered on third reading.

S40-60. Scheduling for second reading. (1) All bills and resolutions that have been reported by a committee or withdrawn from a committee by motion, accepted by the Senate, and posted online and reproduced must be scheduled by the President for consideration by Committee of the Whole.

(2) Until the 50th legislative day, 1 day must elapse between receiving the legislation from printing and scheduling for second reading for consideration by Committee of the Whole unless a posted or printed version of an unamended bill is available.

(3) The majority leader shall arrange legislation on the agenda in the order in which the bills will be considered, unless otherwise ordered by the Senate or Committee of the Whole.

CHAPTER 5

Floor Action

S50-10. Attendance – mandatory voting – quorum.

(1) Except as provided in subsection (2), a Senator must be physically or remotely present every sitting of the Senate and shall vote on questions put before the Senate.

(2) A Senator shall notify the President, majority leader, or the minority leader if the Senator will be remotely present or absent for a sitting of the Senate.

(3) A majority of the Senate shall constitute a quorum to do business, but a smaller number may adjourn from day to day and compel the attendance of absent Senators, in the manner and under penalties as the Senate may prescribe (Montana Constitution, Art. V, sec. 10(2)).

S50-20. Orders of business. After prayer, roll call, and report on the journal, the order of business of the Senate is as follows:

- (1) communications and petitions;
- (2) reports of standing committees;
- (3) reports of select committees;
- (4) messages from the Governor;
- (5) messages from the House of Representatives;
- (6) first reading and commitment of bills;
- (7) second reading of bills (Committee of the Whole);
- (8) third reading of bills;
- (9) motions;
- (10) unfinished business;
- (11) special orders of the day; and
- (12) announcement of committee meetings.

To revert to or pass to a new order of business requires only a majority vote.

S50-30. Limitations on debate. A Senator may not speak more than twice on any one motion or question without unanimous consent of the Senate, unless the Senator has introduced or proposed the motion or question under debate, in which case the Senator may speak twice and also close the debate. However, a Senator who has spoken may not speak again on the same motion or question to the exclusion of a Senator who has not spoken.

S50-40. Procedure upon offering a motion. (1) When a motion is offered it must be restated by the presiding officer. If requested by the presiding officer or a Senator, it must be reduced to writing, presented at the rostrum, and read aloud by the Secretary.

(2) A motion may be withdrawn by the Senator offering it at any time before it is amended or voted upon.

(3) A motion is carried by a majority of the Senate present and voting unless otherwise stated in the Senate Rules.

S50-50. Precedence of motions. (1) When a question is under debate only the following privileged and subsidiary motions may be made:

- (a) to adjourn for the day (nondebatable S50-60);
- (b) to adjourn sine die (debatable S50-135);
- (c) for a call of the Senate (nondebatable S50-60);
- (d) to recess (nondebatable S50-60);
- (e) question of privilege;
- (f) to lay on the table (nondebatable S50-60);
- (g) for the previous question (nondebatable S50-60);
- (h) to postpone to a certain day;
- (i) to refer or commit;
- (j) to amend;
- (k) subject to subsection (1)(l), to postpone indefinitely; and

(1) to postpone indefinitely on a bill or resolution after its failure to receive a majority of those present and voting on second reading.

(2) The motions listed in subsection (1) have precedence in the order listed.

(3) Subject to subsection (1)(l), a question may be indefinitely postponed by a majority roll call of all Senators physically or remotely present and voting. When a bill or resolution is postponed indefinitely after debate on second reading, it is finally rejected and may not be acted upon again except upon a motion of reconsideration as provided in S50-90.

(4) A motion or proposition on a subject different from that under consideration may not be accepted unless a substitute motion is in order.

S50-60. Nondebatable motions. The following motions are not debatable:

(1) to adjourn for the day;

(2) for a call of the Senate;

(3) to recess or rise;

(4) for parliamentary inquiry;

(5) for suspension of the rules;

(6) to lay on the table;

(7) for the previous question;

(8) to limit, extend the limits of, or to close debate;

(9) to amend an undebatable motion;

(10) to change a vote (S50-200);

(11) to pass business in Committee of the Whole;

(12) to take from the table;

(13) a decision of the presiding officer, unless appealed or unless the presiding officer submits the question to the Senate for advice or decision; and

(14) all incidental motions, such as motions relating to voting or other questions of a general procedural nature.

S50-70. Amending motions – restrictions. (1) Subject to subsection (2), no more than one amendment and no more than one substitute motion may be made to a motion. This rule permits the main motion and two modifying motions.

(2) A motion for a call of the Senate, for the previous question, to table, or to take from the table may not be amended.

S50-80. Previous question. (1) Except as provided in subsection (2), the effect of calling for the previous question, if adopted, is to close debate immediately, to prevent the offering of amendments or other subsidiary motions, and to bring to vote promptly the immediately pending main question and the adhering subsidiary motions, whether on appeal or otherwise. The motion for the previous question is nondebatable as provided in S50-60(7).

(2) When the previous question is ordered on any debatable question on which there has been no debate, the question may be debated for one-half hour, one-half of that time to be given to the proponents and one-half to the opponents. The sponsor of the main motion on which the previous question is adopted may close on the motion regardless of whether debate on the main motion has occurred.

(3) A call of the Senate is not in order after the previous question is ordered unless it appears upon an actual count by the presiding officer that a quorum is not physically and remotely present.

S50-90. Reconsideration – time restrictions. (1) Subject to subsection (6), any Senator may, on the day the vote was taken or on the next day the Senate is in session, move to reconsider the question. A motion to reconsider is a debatable motion, but the debate is limited to the motion. The debate on a motion to reconsider may not address the substance of the matter for which reconsideration is sought. However, an inquiry may be made concerning the purpose of the motion to reconsider.

(2) A motion to reconsider must be disposed of when made unless a proper substitute motion is made and adopted.

(3) A motion to recall a bill from the House of Representatives constitutes notice to reconsider and must be acted on as a

motion to reconsider. A motion to reconsider or to recall a bill from the House of Representatives may be made only under Order of Business No. 9 and, under that order of business, takes precedence over all motions except motions to recess or adjourn.

(4) When a motion to reconsider is laid on the table, a two-thirds majority is required to take it from the table. When a motion to reconsider fails, the question is finally and conclusively settled.

(5) If a motion to reconsider third reading action is carried, there may not be further action until the succeeding legislative day.

(6) If the Senate has adjourned for more than 2 days, then a motion to reconsider action taken on the last day the Senate was in session is in order on the day the Senate reconvenes or on the following legislative day.

S50-95. Rereferral. (1) Legislation that is in the possession of the Senate and that has been reported from a committee with a do pass or be concurred in recommendation may be rereferred to a Senate committee by a majority vote.

(2) (a) With the consent of the majority leader, the minority leader, and the bill sponsor, legislation that has passed second reading, has been rereferred to the Finance and Claims Committee pursuant to subsection (1), and is reported from committee without amendments may be placed on third reading.

(b) The third-reading agenda must specify that the legislation rereferred and reported from committee under subsection (2)(a) was rereferred to the Senate Finance and Claims Committee and reported from the committee without amendments as passed on second reading.

(3) The individual making the rereferral motion shall announce the bill number, short bill title, and the name of the sponsor of the bill immediately before it may be considered for rereferral.

S50-100. Dividing a question – segregation excluded. A Senator may request to divide a question if it includes two or more propositions so distinct in substance that if one thing is taken away a substantive question will remain. A vote is not required on a request to divide a question, but the chair may rule that a question is not divisible. The ruling of the chair may be appealed as provided in S20-10 and S20-20. For an appeal of a ruling of the presiding officer, the question for the Senate

must be stated as, "Shall the ruling of the chair be upheld?". A motion to segregate pursuant to S50-140(4) is not a request to divide a question.

S50-110. Rules for questions or bills requiring other than a majority vote. (1) Except as provided in subsection (2), if a question or bill requires more than a majority vote for final passage, a majority vote is sufficient to decide any question relating to the question or bill prior to third reading.

(2) Any vote in the Senate on a bill proposing an amendment to the Montana Constitution under circumstances in which there exists the mathematical possibility of obtaining the necessary two-thirds vote of the Legislature will cause the bill to progress as though it had received the majority vote. This rule does not prevent a committee from indefinitely postponing or tabling a bill proposing an amendment to the Montana Constitution.

(3) If a bill has been amended in the House of Representatives and the amendments are accepted by the Senate, the bill must again be placed on third reading in the Senate to determine if the required number of votes has been cast.

S50-120. Committee reports to Senate – reconsideration. (1) Reports of standing committees must be read on Order of Business No. 2, and, if there is no objection to form, are considered adopted. Subject to subsection (4), debate may not be had on any report.

(2) On an adverse committee report, the sponsor may respond to the chair of the committee making the report.

(3) Any Senator seeking a reconsideration of the Senate's action on the adoption of a committee report shall do so on Order of Business No. 9 by motion to reconsider as provided in S50-90. Any Senator may make the reconsideration motion and need not have voted on the prevailing side. This rule applies notwithstanding any joint rule to the contrary. Subject to S50-90(6), the reconsideration motion must be made within 1 legislative day of the adoption of the committee report and is not in order if the bill has been considered in Committee of the Whole.

(4) (a) Subject to subsection (4)(b), the Rules Committee and conference committees may report at any time, except during a call of the Senate, when a vote is being taken, or during Committee of the Whole.

(b) The Rules Committee may report during Committee of the Whole on matters referred to the Committee by the Committee of the Whole.

S50-130. Conference committee – reports. (1) When a conference committee report is filed with the Secretary of the Senate, the report must be read under Order of Business No. 3, select committees, and placed on the calendar the succeeding legislative day for consideration on second reading. If recommended favorably by the Committee of the Whole, it may be considered on third reading the same legislative day.

(2) If both the Senate and the House of Representatives adopt the same conference committee report on legislation requiring more than a majority vote for final passage, the Senate, following approval of the conference committee report on third reading, shall place the final form of the legislation on third reading to determine if the required vote is obtained.

(3) If the Senate rejects a conference committee report, the committee continues to exist unless dissolved by the President or by motion. The committee may file a subsequent report.

(4) A Senate conference committee may confer regarding matters assigned to it with any House conference committee with like jurisdiction and submit recommendations for consideration of the Senate.

S50-135. Adjournment sine die. (1) Subject to Article V, section 10(5), of the Montana Constitution, a Senator may move that the Senate adjourn for the session.

(2) (a) The motion is debatable and may be made under any order of business except Order of Business No. 7.

(b) Debate on the motion is limited to two proponents and two opponents.

S50-140. Second reading – Committee of the Whole report – segregation – rejection. (1) The Senate may resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole for consideration of business on second reading, by approval of a motion for that purpose.

(2) After a Committee of the Whole has been formed, the President shall appoint a chair to preside.

(3) All legislation considered in the Committee of the Whole must be read by a summary of its title. The sponsor shall make an opening statement, proposed amendments must be considered, and then the bill must be considered in its entirety.

(4) Prior to adoption of the Committee of the Whole report, a Senator may move to segregate legislation. If the motion prevails, the legislation remains on second reading.

(5) When a Committee of the Whole report on legislation is rejected, the legislation remains on second reading.

S50-150. Committee of the Whole amendments. (1) All Committee of the Whole amendments must be prepared by the staff of the Legislative Services Division, stipulating the date and time of preparation and staff approval, and delivered to the Secretary of the Senate for reading before the amendment is voted on.

(2) Each amendment, rejected or adopted, must be referenced in the journal, along with the name of the sponsor and the vote on each.

S50-160. Motions in Committee of the Whole. (1) All proper motions on second reading are debatable unless specified in S50-60.

(2) The only motions in order during Committee of the Whole are to:

- (a) recommend passage or nonpassage;
- (b) recommend concurrence or nonconcurrence (House amendments to Senate legislation);
- (c) amend;
- (d) subject to subsection (2)(e), to postpone indefinitely;
- (e) to postpone indefinitely on a bill or resolution after its failure to receive a majority of those present and voting on second reading;
- (f) pass consideration;
- (g) change the order in which legislation is placed on the agenda (nondebatable S50-60(14));
- (h) rise (nondebatable S50-60(3));

(i) rise and report progress and ask leave to sit again (nondebatable S50-60(3)); or

(j) rise and report (nondebatable S50-60(3)).

(3) The motions listed in subsection (2) may be made in descending order as listed.

(4) Except for the President of the Senate or designee, a Senator may not be recognized between the time a bill sponsor closes on the bill and the question is called by the presiding officer with a vote taken on the bill or resolution.

S50-170. Committee of the Whole – generally. (1) The Committee of the Whole may not appoint subcommittees.

(2) The Committee of the Whole may not punish its members for misconduct, but may report disorder to the Senate.

S50-180. Voting on second reading – positive disposition of motions. (1) On Order of Business No. 7, in addition to other methods, a recorded vote may be made in the following manner: the chair may call for a voice vote to accept or reject a question. If the vote is other than unanimous, the chair may ask that the lesser number on the question indicate their vote by an approved method of counting votes. The Secretary will then record the vote. The chair may then rule that unless excused those of the greater number and physically or remotely present have voted on the prevailing side of the question and that their vote be recorded as voting on the prevailing side. If there was a unanimous voice vote, all those physically or remotely present will be recorded as having voted for the question.

(2) A motion on second reading must be disposed of by a positive vote.

S50-190. Third reading procedure. (1) Unless rereferred to a committee by a majority vote after the adoption of the Committee of the Whole report but before adjournment for the day, all legislation passing second reading must be placed on third reading the day following the receipt of the engrossing or other appropriate printing report.

(2) On Order of Business No. 8 the Secretary shall read the title and the President shall state the question as follows: “Senate bill number (or other appropriate identification)....

having been read three times, the question is, shall the bill (or other appropriate identification) pass the Senate?"

(3) If an electronic voting system is used, the President shall state "Those in favor vote yes and those opposed vote no" and the Secretary will sound the signal and open the board for voting. After a reasonable pause the presiding officer asks "Has every member voted?" (reasonable pause), "Does any member wish to change his or her vote?" (reasonable pause), "The Secretary will record the vote."

S50-200. Senate voting – changing a vote – objection.

(1) A roll call vote must be taken on the request of two Senators, if the request occurs before the vote is taken.

(2) On a roll call vote the names of the Senators must be called alphabetically, unless an electronic voting system is used. A Senator may not vote after the decision is announced from the chair. A Senator may not explain a vote until after the decision is announced from the chair.

(3) A Senator may move to change the Senator's vote, on any recorded vote, within 1 legislative day of the vote. The Senator making the motion shall first specify the bill number, the date of the vote, and the original vote tally. A vote may not be changed if it would affect the outcome of legislation. The motion is nondebatable. If none of the Senators physically or remotely present object, the change must be entered into the journal.

(4) If any Senator objects to the request in subsection (3), the Senator making the request may move to suspend the rules to allow the Senator to change the Senator's vote.

(5) An error caused by a malfunction of the voting system may be corrected without a vote within 10 minutes of the malfunction.

S50-210. Absentee votes – restrictions. (1) An excused senator may file an absentee vote authorization form to vote during the excused absence on any vote for which absentee voting is allowed.

(2) An excused senator shall sign an absentee vote authorization form that specifies the motion and the desired vote.

(3) The absentee vote authorization form must be handed in at the rostrum by the party whip or designated senator before voting on the motion has commenced.

(4) The absentee vote authorization may be revoked before the vote by the member who signed the authorization.

(5) Absentee voting is not allowed on third reading.

S50-220. Call of the Senate without a quorum. (1) In the absence of a quorum, a majority of Senators physically and remotely present may compel the attendance of absent Senators by ordering a call of the Senate. A call of the Senate is not in order if a majority of Senators are physically and remotely present.

(2) On a call of the Senate, a Senator who refuses to attend may be arrested by the Sergeant-at-Arms or any other person, as the majority of the Senators present direct. When the attendance of an absent Senator is secured and the Senate refuses to excuse the Senator's absence, the Senator may not be paid any expense payments while absent and is liable for the expenses incurred in procuring the Senator's attendance.

(3) During a call of the Senate, all business must be suspended. After a call has been ordered, no motion is in order except a motion to adjourn or remove the call. When a quorum has been achieved under the call, the call is automatically lifted. The call may be removed by a two-thirds vote of the members physically or remotely present.

S50-230. House amendments to Senate legislation. (1) When the House has properly returned Senate legislation with House amendments, the Senate shall announce the amendments on Order of Business No. 5 and the President shall place them on second reading for debate. The President may rerefer Senate legislation with House amendments to a committee for a hearing if the House amendments constitute a significant change in the Senate legislation. The second reading vote is limited to consideration of the House amendments.

(2) If the Senate accepts House amendments, the Senate shall place the final form of the legislation on third reading to determine if the legislation, as amended, is passed or if the required vote is obtained.

(3) If the Senate rejects the House amendments, the Senate may request the House to recede from its amendments or may direct appointment of a conference committee and request the House to appoint a like committee.

S50-240. Governor's amendments. (1) When the Governor returns a bill with recommended amendments, the Senate shall announce the amendments under Order of Business No. 4.

(2) The Senate may debate and adopt or reject the Governor's recommended amendments on second reading on any legislative day.

(3) If both the Senate and the House of Representatives accept the Governor's recommended amendments on a bill that requires more than a majority vote for final passage, the Senate shall place the final form of the legislation on third reading to determine if the required vote is obtained.

S50-250. Governor's veto. (1) When the Governor returns a bill with a veto, the Senate shall announce the veto under Order of Business No. 4.

(2) On any legislative day, a Senator may move to override the Governor's veto by a two-thirds vote under Order of Business No. 9.

CHAPTER 6

Rules

S60-10. Senate rules – amendment – adoption – suspension. (1) A motion to amend or adopt a rule of the Senate must be referred to the Rules Committee without debate. A rule of the Senate may be amended or adopted only with the concurrence of a majority of the Senate and after 1 day's notice.

(2) Subject to subsection (3), a rule may be suspended temporarily by a three-fifths vote.

(3) During a special session of the Legislature, the rules may be suspended by a majority vote.

S60-20. Mason's Manual of Legislative Procedure. The most recent publication of Mason's Manual of Legislative Procedure governs the proceedings of the Senate in all cases not covered by these rules.

S60-30. Joint rules superseded. A Senate rule, insofar as it relates to the internal proceedings of the Senate, supersedes a joint rule.

CHAPTER 7

Nominations from the Governor

S70-10. Nominations – second term reappointments.

(1) The Governor shall nominate and, by and with the consent of the Senate, appoint all officers whose offices are established by the Montana Constitution or which may be created by law and for whom appointment or election is not otherwise provided.

(2) If during a recess of the Senate a vacancy occurs in any office subject to Senate confirmation, the Governor shall appoint some fit person to discharge the duties of the office until the next meeting of the Senate, when the Governor shall nominate a person to fill the office.

(3) If the Governor is reelected to a second 4-year term of office, the Governor shall renominate all retained officers that were previously confirmed pursuant to subsection (1). The Senate confirmation procedure for a retained officer is the same as the confirmation procedure for a new appointment.

(4) A retained officer is an individual whose term would have expired at the end of the Governor's first 4-year term if the Governor had not been reelected to a second consecutive term.

S70-20. Receiving nominations – requesting bill drafts.

(1) Nominations and renominations received from the Governor must be:

(a) received by the President;

(b) delivered to the Secretary of the Senate; and

(c) read under Order of Business No. 4, messages from the Governor.

(2) The Secretary shall distribute a copy of the list of nominations and renominations to each Senator.

(3) (a) The President of the Senate shall submit a bill draft request for a resolution for each nominee or each group of nominees read under Order of Business No. 4. These bill draft requests will not count against any bill draft request limit imposed on the President of the Senate.

(b) Prior to introduction of the resolution, the President of the Senate shall designate the appropriate committee chair or other member of the Senate to introduce the simple resolution.

S70-30. Committee process – separate consideration.

(1) (a) The committee shall research each nominee and may request biographical information from the Governor for each nominee if none has been provided.

(b) When the resolution has been prepared and introduced, the committee shall hold a hearing on the resolution after appropriate public notice has been given.

(2) (a) Except as provided in subsection (2)(b), following the hearings for a group of nominees, the committee shall issue standing committee reports to be considered on second reading, stating the committee's recommendations concerning the nominees.

(b) Following the hearings for the group of nominees, if a committee member wishes to have an individual nominee or group of nominees considered by the Senate separately from the group of nominees being considered by the committee, the committee member may prepare an amendment for executive action to strike or add a nominee or group of nominees. If a nominee or a group of nominees is stricken, the committee member that offered the amendment shall make a motion to request a committee resolution for the nominee or nominees to be considered by a separate resolution. A simple majority of the committee is sufficient in order to request a separate committee resolution.

(3) Within the Committee of the Whole, if a Senator wishes to have an individual nominee or group of nominees considered by the Senate separately from the group of nominees recommended by the committee, the Senator may prepare a floor amendment to strike or add a nominee or group of nominees. If a nominee or a group of nominees is stricken, a Senator may make a motion to request that the President of the Senate submit a bill draft request for that the nominee or nominees to be considered by a separate resolution.

(4) When the resolution for an individual or group nomination has been prepared and introduced, the committee shall take executive action on the resolution. When a hearing on the separated nomination was held prior to the committee's

standing committee report, an additional hearing is not required to be held before the committee takes action on the separate resolution. After the committee's executive action, the committee chair shall issue a standing committee report.

(5) The Secretary will read the reports under Order of Business No. 2, reports of standing committees.

(6) After the report has been read, the resolution must be placed on Order of Business No. 7 the next legislative day for consideration by the Senate. Motions to approve or disapprove of the resolution are in order and may be debated. Approval upon second reading constitutes confirmation of the Governor's nominee. A motion to reconsider the approval or disapproval of a nomination made on second reading must occur within one legislative day. A motion to reconsider may not be made if the resolution approving a confirmation is no longer in the possession of the Senate.

(7) Once the Senate adjourns sine die, all nominations and renominations that were not approved by the Senate are treated as rejected confirmations.

Appendix A

List of Questions Requiring Other Than a Majority Vote

The following questions require the vote specified:

(1) a motion to lift a call of the Senate pursuant to S50-220(3) (two-thirds of the members physically or remotely present);

(2) a motion to suspend rules during a regular session pursuant to S60-10 (three-fifths);

(3) a motion to override the Governor's veto pursuant to S50-250 and Article VI, section 10(3), of the Montana Constitution (two-thirds);

(4) a motion to approve a bill to appropriate the principal of the coal trust fund pursuant to Article IX, section 5, of the Montana Constitution (three-fourths of each house);

(5) a motion to approve a bill to appropriate highway revenue as described in Article VIII, section 6, of the Montana Constitution for purposes other than those described in that section (three-fifths of each house);

(6) a motion to approve a bill proposing to amend the Montana Constitution pursuant to Article XIV, section 8, of the Montana Constitution (two-thirds of the entire Legislature);

(7) an appeal of the ruling of the presiding officer pursuant to S20-10 (one Senator, seconded by two other Senators);

(8) a motion to approve a bill conferring immunity from suit as described in Article II, section 18, of the Montana Constitution (two-thirds);

(9) a motion to approve a bill to appropriate the principal of the tobacco settlement trust fund pursuant to Article XII, section 4, of the Montana Constitution (two-thirds); and

(10) a motion to appropriate the principal of the noxious weed management trust fund pursuant to Article IX, section 6, of the Montana Constitution (three-fourths).

HOUSE RULES

CHAPTER 1

Administration

H10-10. House officers – definitions. (1) House officers include a Speaker, a Speaker pro tempore, majority and minority leaders, and majority and minority whips.

(2) A majority of representatives voting elects the Speaker and Speaker pro tempore from the House membership. A majority of each caucus voting nominates House members to the remaining offices, and those nominees are considered to have been elected by a majority vote of the House.

(3) (a) “Majority leader” means the leader of the majority party, elected by the caucus.

(b) “Majority party” means the party with the most members, subject to subsection (4).

(c) “Minority leader” means the leader of the minority party, elected by the caucus.

(d) “Minority party” means the party with the second most members, subject to subsection (4).

(4) If there are an equal number of members of the two parties with the most members, then the majority party is the party of the Speaker and the minority party is the other party with an equal number of members.

H10-20. Speaker’s duties. (1) The Speaker is the presiding officer of the House, with authority for administration, order, decorum, and the interpretation and enforcement of rules in all House deliberations.

(2) The Speaker shall see that all members conduct themselves in a civil manner in accordance with accepted standards of parliamentary conduct. The Speaker may, when necessary, order the Sergeant-at-Arms to clear the aisles and seat the members of the House so that business may be conducted in an orderly manner.

(3) Signs, placards, visual displays, or other objects of a similar nature are not permitted in the rooms, lobby, gallery, or on the floor of the House. The Speaker may order the galleries, lobbies, or hallway cleared in case of disturbance or disorderly conduct.

(4) The Speaker shall sign all necessary certifications by the House, including enrolled bills and resolutions, journals, and subpoenas.

(5) The Speaker shall arrange the agendas for second and third readings each legislative day. Representatives may amend the agendas as provided in H40-130.

(6) The Speaker is the chief officer of the House, with authority for all House employees.

(7) The Speaker may name any member to perform the duties of the chair. If the House is not in session and the Speaker pro tempore is not available, the Speaker shall name a member who shall call the House to order and preside during the Speaker's absence.

(8) Upon request of the Minority Leader, the Speaker will submit a request for a fiscal note on any bill.

H10-30. Speaker-elect. During the transition period between the party organization caucuses and the election of House officers, the Speaker-elect has the responsibilities and authority appropriate to organize the House. Authority includes approving presession expenditures.

H10-40. Speaker pro tempore duties. The Speaker pro tempore shall, in the absence or inability of the Speaker, call the House to order and perform all other duties of the chair in presiding over the deliberations of the House and shall perform other duties and exercise other responsibilities as may be assigned by the Speaker.

H10-50. Majority Leader. The primary functions of the majority leader usually relate to floor duties. The duties of the majority leader may include but are not limited to:

(1) being the lead speaker for the majority party during floor debates;

(2) helping the Speaker develop the calendar;

(3) assisting the Speaker with program development, policy formation, and policy decisions; and

(4) presiding over the majority caucus meetings; and

(5) other duties as assigned by the caucus.

H10-60. Majority Whip. The duties of the majority whip may include but are not limited to:

- (1) assisting the majority leader;
- (2) ensuring member attendance;
- (3) counting votes;
- (4) generally communicating the majority position; and
- (5) other duties as assigned by the caucus.

H10-70. Minority Leader. The minority leader is the principal leader of the minority caucus. The duties of the minority leader may include but are not limited to:

- (1) developing the minority position;
- (2) negotiating with the majority party;
- (3) directing minority caucus activities on the chamber floor;
- (4) leading debate for the minority; and
- (5) other duties as assigned by the caucus.

H10-80. Minority Whip. The major responsibilities for the minority whip may include but are not limited to:

- (1) assisting the minority leader on the floor;
- (2) counting votes;
- (3) ensuring attendance of minority party members; and
- (4) other duties as assigned by the caucus.

H10-90. Employees. (1) The Speaker shall appoint a Chief Clerk and Sergeant-at-Arms and may appoint a Chaplain, subject to confirmation of the House.

(2) The Speaker shall employ necessary staff or delegate that function to the employees designated in subsection (1).

(3) The secretary for a standing or select committee is generally responsible to the committee chair but shall work under the direction of the Chief Clerk.

(4) The Speaker and majority and minority leaders may each appoint an assistant.

H10-100. Chief Clerk's duties. The Chief Clerk, under the supervision of the Speaker, is the chief administrative officer of the House and is responsible to:

- (1) supervise all House employees;
- (2) have custody of all records and documents of the House;
- (3) supervise the handling of legislation in the House, the House journal, and other House publications; deliver to the Secretary of State at the close of each session the House journal, bill and resolution records, and all original House bills and joint resolutions; collect audio recording logs and exhibits from all House committees and subcommittees and provide them in an electronic format within a reasonable time after each meeting. An electronic copy will be provided to the Legislative Services Division.

H10-110. Duties of Sergeant-at-Arms. The Sergeant-at-Arms shall:

- (1) under the direction of the Speaker and the Chief Clerk, have charge of and maintain order in the House, its lobbies, galleries, and hallways and all other rooms in the Capitol assigned for the use of the House;
- (2) be present whenever the House is in session and at any other time as directed by the presiding officer;
- (3) execute the commands of the House and serve the writs and processes issued by the authority of the House and directed by the Speaker;
- (4) supervise assistants to the Sergeant-at-Arms, who shall aid in the performance of prescribed duties and who have the same authority, subject to the control of the Speaker;
- (5) clear the floor and anteroom of the House of all persons not entitled to the privileges of the floor prior to the convening of each session of the House;
- (6) bring in absent members when so directed under a call of the House;
- (7) enforce the distribution of any printed matter in the House chambers and anteroom in accordance with H20-70;

(8) enforce parking regulations applicable to areas of the Capitol complex under the control of the House;

(9) supervise the doorkeeper; and

(10) supervise the pages.

H10-120. Legislative interns. (1) A legislative intern is a person specifically designated by a representative to assist that representative in performing legislative duties. A representative may sponsor one legislative intern a session by written notification to the Sergeant-at-Arms.

(2) No representative may designate a second legislative intern in the same session without the approval of the House Rules Committee.

(3) A legislative intern must be of legal age unless otherwise approved by the House Rules Committee.

(4) A legislative intern may not enter room 10 of the Capitol unless accompanied by the sponsoring representative.

(5) The Sergeant-at-Arms shall issue distinctive identification tags to legislative interns. The cost must be paid by the sponsoring representative.

H10-140. House journal. (1) The House shall keep a journal, which is the official record of House actions (Montana Constitution, Art. V, Sec. 10). The journal must be prepared under the direction of the Speaker.

(2) Records of the following proceedings must be entered on the journal:

(a) the taking and subscription of the constitutional oath by representatives (Montana Constitution, Art. III, Sec. 3);

(b) committee reports;

(c) messages from the Governor;

(d) messages from the Senate;

(e) every motion, the name of the representative presenting it, and its disposition;

(f) the introduction of legislation in the House;

- (g) consideration of legislation subsequent to introduction;
 - (h) on final passage of legislation, the names of the representatives and their vote on the question (Montana Constitution, Art. V, Sec. 11);
 - (i) roll call votes; and
 - (j) upon a request by two representatives before a vote is taken, the names of the representatives and their votes on the question.
- (3) The Chief Clerk shall provide to the Legislative Services Division such information as may be required for the publication of the daily journal.
- (4) Any representative may examine the daily journal and propose corrections. The Speaker may direct a correction to be made when suggested subject to objection by the House.
- (5) The Speaker shall authenticate the House journal after the close of the session.
- (6) The Legislative Services Division shall publish and distribute the House journal (sections 5-11-202 and 5-11-203, MCA). The title of each bill must be listed in the index of the published session journal.

H10-150. Votes recorded and public. Every vote of each representative on each substantive question in the House, in any committee, or in Committee of the Whole must be recorded and made public (Montana Constitution, Art. V, Sec. 11).

H10-160. Duration of legislative day. A legislative day ends either 24 hours after the House convenes for that day or at the time the House convenes for the following legislative day, whichever is earlier. (See Joint Rule 10-20.)

CHAPTER 2

Decorum

H20-10. Addressing the House – recognition. (1) When a member desires to speak to or address any matter to the House, the member should rise and respectfully address the Speaker or the presiding officer.

(2) The Speaker or presiding officer may ask, “For what purpose does the member rise?” or “For what purpose does the member seek recognition?” and may then decide if recognition is to be granted, except that the Speaker or presiding officer shall always recognize the Speaker pro tempore, the majority leader, or the minority leader.

H20-20. Questions of order and privilege – appeal – breach of decorum – offenses – restrictions – definitions.

(1) (a) The Speaker shall decide all questions of order and privilege and decisions of recognition, subject to an appeal by any representative, to the House for determination by majority vote. The question on appeal is, “Shall the decision of the chairman be sustained?”.

(b) The Speaker shall preserve order and decorum of the House.

(c) A member may not indulge in personalities, impugn motives of members, use profane language, or threaten physical injury to a member in the House chamber.

(d) A member’s conduct that violates subsection (1)(c) is grounds for discipline by the House and is considered a breach of decorum.

(2) (a) (i) A member engaging in a breach of decorum in violation of subsection (1)(c) may be called to order by the Speaker or the Speaker’s designee.

(ii) If a question of order or privilege is raised during the Committee of the Whole, the presiding officer will stand at ease and the Speaker or the Speaker’s designee will assume the chair to decide the question.

(iii) The minority leader may raise a question of order or privilege on decorum to the Speaker or the Speaker’s designee.

(b) A member who is called to order by the Speaker or the Speaker's designee shall immediately cease all activity and be seated.

(c) The call to order of a member for a violation of subsection (1)(c) is subject to appeal by any representative to the House for determination by majority vote.

(d) (i) If the decision of the House is in favor of the member called to order, the member is permitted to proceed.

(ii) Subject to subsection (2)(d)(iii), if the decision of the House is not in favor of the member called to order, the member may not be permitted to proceed and is subject to the following:

(A) First offense: The member is issued a formal warning of the House to cease and desist the disorderly behavior.

(B) Second offense: The member may not be recognized in debate or remarks on the House floor for up to 3 consecutive legislative days beginning on the day on which the second offense is sustained.

(C) Third or subsequent offense: The member is not recognized or is expelled from the House floor for up to 6 consecutive legislative days beginning on the day on which the third or subsequent offense is sustained.

(iii) At the Speaker's discretion, the sequential order of offenses provided for in this subsection (2) may be reset after 1 month from the date of the latest offense.

(e) Nothing in this rule may be construed to:

(i) prohibit the offending member from voting on any measure before the House by participating remotely; or

(ii) preclude the House from taking additional measures to discipline a member, including censure or expulsion, regardless of the number of prior offenses, if any, committed by the offending member.

(3) Responses to parliamentary inquiries may not be appealed.

(4) (a) Questions of order and privilege, in order of precedence, are:

(i) those affecting the collective rights, safety, dignity, and integrity of the House; and

(ii) those affecting the rights, reputation, and conduct of individual representatives.

(b) (i) The Speaker shall resolve questions of order or privilege involving decorum by the next legislative day from the day that the question was raised.

(ii) If a question is not resolved pursuant to subsection (4)(b)(i), the question is moot and unenforceable.

(5) A member may not address the House on a question of privilege between the time:

(a) an undebatable motion is offered and the vote is taken on the motion;

(b) the previous question is ordered and the vote is taken on the proposition included under the previous question; or

(c) a motion to lay on the table is offered and the vote is taken on the motion.

(6) (a) “Indulge in personalities” means a member engaging in personal attacks about individuals.

(b) “Parliamentary inquiry” means a request for information regarding some procedure concerning some questions before the house.

(c) “Questions of order and privilege” means those questions as provided for in subsection (4) that enforce the House rules, maintain the order of the House, and protect the integrity, rights, and privileges of the House and its members.

H20-30. Limits on lobbying. Lobbying on the House floor and in the anteroom is prohibited during a daily session, 2 hours before the session, and 2 hours after the session. A registered lobbyist is prohibited from the house floor.

H20-40. Admittance to the House floor. (1) The following persons may be admitted to the House floor during a daily session: present legislators and former legislators who are not registered lobbyists; legislative employees necessary for the conduct of the session; registered media representatives; and members’ spouses and children. The Speaker may allow exceptions to this rule.

(2) Only a member may sit in a member's chair when the House is in session.

H20-50. Dilatory motions or questions – appeal. The House has a right to protect itself from dilatory motions or questions used for the purpose of delaying or obstructing business. The presiding officer shall decide if motions (except a call of the House) or questions are dilatory. This decision may be appealed to the House for a determination by majority vote.

H20-60. Lobbying by employees – sanctions. (1) A legislative employee, aide, or intern of either house is prohibited from lobbying, although a legislative committee may request testimony from a person so restricted.

(2) The Speaker may discipline or discharge any House employee violating this prohibition. The Speaker may withdraw the privileges of any House aide or intern for violating this prohibition.

(3) For the purposes of the House rules, “lobbying” means:

(a) the practice of promoting or opposing the introduction or enactment of legislation before the Legislature or legislators; and

(b) the practice of promoting or opposing official action of any legislator or the Legislature.

H20-70. Papers distributed on desks – exception. A paper concerning proposed legislation may not be placed on representatives' desks unless it is authorized by a member and permission has been granted by the Speaker. The Sergeant-at-Arms shall direct its distribution. This restriction does not apply to material prepared by staff and placed on a representative's desk at the request of the representative.

H20-80. Violation of rules – procedure – appeal. (1) If a member, in speaking or otherwise, violates the rules of the House, the Speaker shall, or the majority or minority leader may, call the member to order, in which case the member called to order must be seated immediately.

(2) The member called to order may move for an appeal to the House. The matter must be submitted to the House for determination by majority vote. The motion is nondebatable.

(3) If the decision of the House is in favor of the member called to order, the member may proceed. If the decision is against the member, the member may not proceed.

(4) If a member is called to order, the matter may be referred to the Rules Committee by the minority or majority leader. The Committee may recommend to the House that the member be censured or be subject to other action. Censure consists of an official public reprimand of a member for inappropriate behavior. The House shall act upon the recommendation of the Committee.

CHAPTER 3

Committees

H30-05. Interim committee appointments. (1) The Speaker shall, subject to the approval of the House by a majority vote, appoint the membership of interim committees no later than April 1 during a regular session of the legislature.

(2) A change by the Speaker of an interim committee appointment or the filling of a vacancy may be approved by the House by a majority vote.

(3) (a) As provided in subsection (3)(b), the House may change the membership of any interim committee by a three-fifths vote of the members present and voting on 3 legislative days' notice.

(b) A member under Order of Business No. 9 may move that specified changes be made to the membership of any interim committee, with the vote 3 legislative days from the day the motion was made.

H30-10. House standing committees – appointments – classification. (1) (a) (i) The Speaker shall determine the total number of members and after good faith consultation with the minority leader shall, with the approval of the House by a majority vote, appoint the chairs, vice chairs, and members to the standing committees.

(ii) A change by the Speaker of a standing committee appointment or the filling of a vacancy may be approved by the House by a majority vote.

(b) The minority leader shall designate a minority vice chair for each standing committee.

(2) The standing committees of the House are as follows:

(a) class one committees:

(i) Appropriations;

(ii) Business and Labor;

(iii) Human Services;

(iv) Judiciary;

(v) State Administration; and

- (vi) Taxation;
- (b) class two committees:
 - (i) Education;
 - (ii) Energy, Technology, and Federal Relations;
 - (iii) Natural Resources; and
 - (iv) Transportation;
- (c) class three committees:
 - (i) Agriculture;
 - (ii) Fish, Wildlife, and Parks; and
 - (iii) Local Government; and
- (d) on call committees:
 - (i) Ethics;
 - (ii) Rules; and
 - (iii) Legislative Administration.

(3) A class 1 committee is scheduled to meet Monday through Friday. A class 2 committee is scheduled to meet Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. A class 3 committee is scheduled to meet Tuesday and Thursday. Unless a class is prescribed for a committee, it meets upon the call of the chair.

(4) The Legislative Council shall review the workload of the standing committees to determine if any change is indicated in the class of a standing committee for the next legislative session. The Legislative Council's recommendations must be submitted to the leadership nominated or elected at the presession caucus.

(5) There will be six subcommittees of the Committee on Appropriations, Education, General Government, Health and Human Services, Natural Resources and Transportation, Judicial Branch, Law Enforcement, and Justice, and Long-Range Planning. Each member serving on the Appropriations Committee must be appointed to at least one of the subcommittees.

(6) The Speaker shall give notice of each appointment to the Chief Clerk for publication.

(7) (a) The Speaker may, in the Speaker's discretion or as authorized by the House, create and appoint select committees, designating the chairman and vice chairman of the select committee with the approval of the House by a majority vote. Select committees may request or receive legislation in the same manner as a standing committee and are subject to the rules of standing committees.

(b) If a bill is heard in a select committee, it must be referred to a standing committee. The select committee shall report findings to the standing committee. The standing committee is not required to hold an additional hearing but shall take executive action and may report the bill to the committee of the whole.

(c) A change by the Speaker of select committee appointment or the filling of a vacancy may be approved by the House by a majority vote.

(8) (a) The Speaker shall appoint all conference, select, and special committees with the advice of the majority leader and minority leader and with the approval of the House by a majority vote.

(b) A change by the Speaker of a conference, select, or special committee appointment or the filling of a vacancy may be approved by the House by a majority vote.

(9) (a) (i) Except as provided in subsection (9)(b), the House may change the membership of any committee by a three-fifths vote of the members present and voting on 3 legislative days' notice as provided in subsection (9)(a)(ii).

(ii) A member under Order of Business No. 9 may move that specified changes be made to the membership of any committee, with the vote 3 legislative days from the day the motion was made.

(b) (i) The House may change the membership of a conference committee by a three-fifths vote of the members present and voting on 2 legislative days' notice as provided in subsection (9)(b)(ii).

(ii) A member under Order of Business No. 9 may move that specified changes be made to the membership of any committee, with the vote 2 legislative days from the day the motion was made.

(10) (a) Except as provided for in subsection (10)(b), a standing, conference, select, or special committee may not report a bill or action out of the committee prior to the approval of the committee membership by the House in accordance with this section.

(b) The House Appropriations standing committee may report a bill or action out of committee prior to the approval of the committee membership by the House in accordance with this section.

H30-20. Chairman's duties. (1) The principal duties of the chairman of standing or select committees are to:

(a) preside over meetings of the committee and to put all questions;

(b) except as provided in H30-40(3)(b) and H30-50(3)(b), schedule all bills assigned to committee for a hearing prior to 3 legislative days before the applicable transmittal deadline for the bill as provided in Joint Rule 40-200;

(c) maintain order and decide all questions of order subject to appeal to the committee;

(d) supervise and direct staff of the committee;

(e) have the committee secretary keep the audio recording log;

(f) sign reports of the committee and submit them promptly to the Chief Clerk;

(g) appoint subcommittees to perform on a formal or an informal basis as provided in subsection (2);

(h) inform the Speaker of committee activity; and

(i) enforce fire code occupancy requirements.

(2) With the exception of the House Appropriations subcommittees, a subcommittee of a standing committee may be appointed by the chairman of the committee. The chairman of the standing committee shall appoint the chairman of the subcommittee.

H30-30. Quorum – officers as members. (1) A quorum of a committee is a majority of the members of the committee. A quorum of a committee must be present at a meeting to act

officially. A quorum of a committee may transact business, and a majority of the quorum, even though it is a minority of the committee, is sufficient for committee action.

(2) The Speaker, the majority leader, and the minority leader are ex officio, nonvoting members of all House committees. They may count toward establishing a quorum.

H30-40. Meetings – purpose – notice – audio recording log. (1) All meetings of committees must be open to the public at all times, subject always to the power and authority of the chairman to maintain safety, order, and decorum. The date, time, and place of committee meetings must be posted.

(2) A committee or subcommittee may be assembled for:

(a) a public hearing at which testimony is to be heard and at which official action may be taken on bills, resolutions, or other matters;

(b) a formal meeting at which the committees may discuss and take official action on bills, resolutions, or other matters without testimony; or

(c) a meeting at which the committee may discuss bills, resolutions, or other matters but take no formal action.

(3) (a) All committees meet at the call of the chairman or upon the request of a majority of the members of the committee.

(b) A committee, through motion, may schedule a bill within the possession of the committee for a hearing prior to 3 legislative days before the applicable transmittal deadline for the bill as provided in Joint Rule 40-200.

(4) All committees shall provide for and give public notice, reasonably calculated to give actual notice to interested persons, of the time, place, and subject matter of regular and special meetings. All committees are encouraged to provide at least 3 legislative days' notice to members of committees and the general public. However, a meeting may be held upon notice appropriate to the circumstances.

(5) A committee may not meet during the time the House is in session without leave of the Speaker. Any member attending such a meeting must be considered excused to attend business of the House subject to a call of the House.

(6) All meetings of committees must be recorded and the audio recording logs must be available to the public within a reasonable time after the meeting. The official record of the committee meeting is the audio recording of the meeting, and the audio recording log must contain at least the following information:

- (a) the time and place of each meeting of the committee;
- (b) committee members present, excused, or absent;
- (c) the names of persons appearing before the committee, whom each represents, and whether the person is a proponent, opponent, or other witness;
- (d) all motions and their disposition;
- (e) the results of all votes;
- (f) references to the audio recording, sufficient to serve as an index to the original recording and official record; and
- (g) testimony and exhibits submitted in writing.

H30-50. Procedures – absentee or proxy voting – member privileges. (1) The chairman shall notify the sponsor of any bill pending before the committee of the time and place it will be considered.

(2) A standing or select committee may not take up referred legislation unless the sponsor or one of the cosponsors is present or unless the sponsor has given written consent. The chairman shall attempt to not schedule Senate bills while the Senate is in session.

(3) (a) Subject to H30-60 and subsection (3)(b), the committee shall act on each bill in its possession and that has had a hearing prior to the last legislative day before the applicable transmittal deadline for the bill as provided in Joint Rule 40-200:

- (i) by reporting the bill out of the committee:
 - (A) with the recommendation that it be referred to another committee;
 - (B) favorably as to passage; or
 - (C) unfavorably; or

(ii) by tabling the measure in committee.

(b) Except as provided in subsection (3)(c), at the written request of the sponsor made at least 48 hours prior to a scheduled hearing, a bill may be withdrawn by the sponsor without a hearing. A bill may not be reported from a committee without a hearing.

(c) A bill may not be withdrawn by the sponsor after a hearing.

(4) The committee may not report a bill to the House without recommendation.

(5) The committee may recommend that a bill on which it has made a favorable recommendation by unanimous vote be placed on the consent calendar. A tie vote in a standing committee on the question of a recommendation to the whole House on a matter before the committee, for example on a question of whether a bill is recommended as “do pass” or “do not pass”, does not result in the matter passing out to the whole House for consideration without recommendation.

(6) In reporting a measure out of committee, a committee shall include in its report:

- (a) the measure in the form reported out;
- (b) the recommendation of the committee;
- (c) an identification of all substantive changes; and
- (d) a fiscal note, if required and available.

(7) If a measure is withdrawn from a committee and brought to the House floor for debate on second reading on that day without a committee recommendation, the bill does not include amendments formally adopted by the committee because committee amendments are merely recommendations to the House that are formally adopted when the committee report is accepted by the House.

(8) A second to any motion offered in a committee is not required in order for the motion to be considered by the committee.

(9) The vote of each member on all committee actions must be recorded. All motions may be adopted only on the affirmative vote of a majority of the members voting. Standing and select committees may by a majority vote of the committee authorize

members to vote by proxy if absent, while engaged in other legislative business or when excused by the presiding officer of the committee due to illness or an emergency. Authorization for absentee or proxy voting must be reflected in the committee audio recording log.

(10) A motion to take a bill from the table may be adopted by the affirmative vote of a majority of the members present at any meeting of the committee.

(11) An action formally taken by a committee may not be altered in the committee except by reconsideration and further formal action of the committee.

(12) A committee may reconsider any action as long as the matter remains in the possession of the committee. A committee member need not have voted with the prevailing side in order to move reconsideration.

(13) (a) Except as provided in subsection (13)(b), legislation requested by a committee requires three-fourths of all members of the committee to vote in favor of the question to allow the committee to request the drafting or introduction of legislation. Votes requesting drafting and introduction of committee legislation may be taken jointly or separately.

(b) The House Appropriations committee may request the drafting and introduction of legislation by a majority vote of all of the members of the committee.

(14) The chairman shall decide points of order.

(15) The privileges of committee members include the following:

(a) to participate freely in committee discussions and debate;

(b) to offer motions;

(c) to assert points of order and privilege;

(d) to question witnesses upon recognition by the chairman;

(e) to offer any amendment to any bill; and

(f) to vote, either by being present or by proxy if authorized pursuant to subsection (9), using a standard form or through the vice chairman or minority vice chairman.

(16) Any meeting of a committee held through the use of telephone or other electronic communication must be conducted in accordance with Chapter 3 of the House Rules.

(17) A committee may consolidate into one bill any two or more related bills referred to it whenever legislation may be simplified by the consolidation.

(18) Committee procedure must be informal, but when any questions arise on committee procedure, the rules or practices of the House are applicable except as stated in the House Rules.

H30-60. Public testimony – decorum – time restrictions.

(1) Subject to Joint Rule 30-05, remote or in-person testimony from proponents, opponents, and informational witnesses must be allowed on every bill or resolution before a standing or select committee. All persons, other than the sponsor, offering testimony shall register on the committee witness list.

(2) Any person wishing to offer testimony to a committee hearing a bill or resolution must be given a reasonable opportunity to do so, orally or in writing. Written testimony may not be required of any witness, but all witnesses must be encouraged to submit a statement in writing for the committee's official record.

(3) The chairman may order the committee room cleared of visitors if there is disorderly conduct. During committee meetings, visitors may not speak unless called upon by the chairman. Restrictions on time available for testimony may be announced.

(4) The number of people in a committee room may not exceed the maximum posted by the State Fire Marshal. The chairman shall maintain that limit.

(5) In any committee meeting, the use of cameras, television, radio, or any form of telecommunication equipment is allowed, but the chairman may designate the areas of the hearing room from which the equipment must be operated. Cell phone use is allowed only at the discretion of the chairman.

H30-70. Ethics Committee. (1) The Ethics Committee shall meet only upon the call of the chair after the referral of an issue from the Rules Committee or the Legislator Conduct Panel or to consider a request for a determination pursuant to subsection (4). The Rules Committee may be convened to consider the referral of a matter to the Ethics Committee upon the request of

a representative. The Rules Committee shall prepare a written statement of the specific question or issue to be addressed by the Ethics Committee. Except for a referral from the Legislative Conduct Panel, the issues referred to the Ethics Committee must be related to the actions of a representative.

(2) The matters that may be referred to the Ethics Committee are:

(a) a violation of:

(i) 2-2-103, MCA;

(ii) 2-2-104, MCA;

(iii) 2-2-111, MCA;

(iv) 2-2-112, MCA; or

(v) Joint Rule 10-85:

(b) the use or threatened use of a representative's position for personal or personal business benefit or advantage; or

(c) any other violation of law by a representative while acting in the capacity of Representative.

(3) If there is a recommendation from the Ethics Committee, the recommendation is made to the House.

(4) A representative may seek a determination from the Ethics Committee concerning the possibility of a personal conflict of interest.

CHAPTER 4

Legislation

H40-10. Introduction deadlines. If a representative accepts drafted legislation from the Legislative Services Division after the deadline for preintroduction, the representative may not introduce that legislation after 2 legislative days from the time the bill was accepted from the Legislative Services Division.

H40-20. House resolutions. (1) A House resolution is used to adopt or amend House rules, make recommendations on the districting and apportionment plan (Montana Constitution, Art. V, Sec. 14), express the sentiment of the House, or assist House operations.

(2) As to drafting, introduction, and referral, a House resolution is treated as a bill. A House resolution may be requested and introduced at any time. Final passage of a House resolution is determined by the Committee of the Whole report. A House resolution does not progress to third reading.

(3) The Chief Clerk shall transmit a copy of each passed House resolution to the Senate and the Secretary of State.

H40-30. Cosponsors. (1) Within 2 days from the date that the chief sponsor signs and accepts legislation from the Legislative Services Division and prior to submitting legislation to the Chief Clerk for introduction, the chief sponsor may add representatives and senators as cosponsors. A legislator shall sign the cosponsor form attached to the legislation in order to be added as a cosponsor.

(2) After legislation is submitted for introduction but before the legislation returns from the first House committee, the chief sponsor may add or remove cosponsors by filing a cosponsor form with the Chief Clerk. This filing must be noted by the Chief Clerk for the record on Order of Business No. 10.

H40-40. Introduction – receipt – messages from Senate and elected officials. (1) During a session, proposed House legislation may be introduced in the House by submitting it, endorsed with the signature of a representative as chief sponsor, to the Chief Clerk for introduction. Except for the first 15 bill numbers that may be reserved for preintroduced legislation, in each session of the Legislature, the proposed legislation must be numbered consecutively by type in the order of receipt.

Submission and numbering of properly endorsed legislation constitutes introduction.

(2) Preintroduction of legislation prior to a session under provisions of the joint rules constitutes introduction in the House.

(3) Acknowledgment by the Chief Clerk of receipt of legislation or other matters transmitted from the Senate for consideration by the House constitutes introduction of the Senate legislation in the House or receipt by the House for purposes of applying time limits contained in the House rules. All legislation may be referred to a committee prior to being read across the rostrum as provided in H40-50.

(4) Acknowledgment by the Chief Clerk of receipt of messages from the Senate or other elected officials constitutes receipt by the House for purposes of any applicable time limit. Senate legislation or messages received from the Senate or elected officials are subject to all other rules.

H40-50. First reading – receipt of Senate legislation. Legislation properly introduced or received in the House must be announced across the rostrum and public notice provided. This announcement constitutes first reading, and no debate or motion is in order except that a representative may question adherence to rules. Acknowledgment by the Chief Clerk of receipt of legislation transmitted from the Senate commences the time limit for consideration of the legislation. All legislation received by the House may be referred to a committee prior to being read across the rostrum.

H40-60. One reading per day – exception. Except on the final legislative day, legislation may receive no more than one reading per legislative day. On the final legislative day, legislation may receive more than one reading.

H40-70. Referral. (1) The Speaker shall refer to a House committee, joint select committee, or joint special committee all properly introduced House legislation and transmitted Senate legislation in conformity with the House Rules Appendix and within 2 legislative days of introduction or transmission.

(2) Legislation may not receive final passage and approval unless it has been referred to a House committee, joint select committee, or joint special committee.

H40-80. Rereferral – Appropriations Committee rereferral – normal progression. (1) Legislation that is in the possession of the House and that has not had a House hearing in the currently assigned House committee may be rereferred to a House committee in accordance with the House Rules Appendix, by House motion approved by a majority of the members present and voting.

(2) (a) With the consent of the majority leader, the minority leader, and the bill sponsor, legislation that has passed second reading in the Committee of the Whole and that has been rereferred to the Appropriations Committee and is reported from committee without amendments may be placed on third reading.

(b) Prior to being placed on third reading, legislation rereferred must be sent to be processed and reproduced as a third reading version and specifically marked as having been passed on second reading and rereferred to the House Appropriations Committee and reported from the committee without amendments.

(3) (a) The normal progress of legislation through the House consists of the following steps in the order listed: introduction; referral to a standing or select committee; a report from the committee; second reading; and third reading.

(b) A motion to remove legislation from its normal progress through the House as provided in subsection (3)(a) by House motion must be approved by no fewer than 55 of the members present and voting.

H40-90. Legislation withdrawn from committee. Legislation may be withdrawn from a House committee after a committee hearing on the legislation by House motion approved by no fewer than 55 of the members present and voting.

H40-100. Standing committee reports – requirement for rejection of adverse committee report. (1) A House standing committee recommendation of “do pass” or “be concurred in” must be announced across the rostrum and, if there is no objection to form, is considered adopted.

(2) A recommendation of “do not pass” or “be not concurred in” must be announced across the rostrum and, on the following legislative day, may be debated and adopted or rejected on Order of Business No. 2. A motion to reject an adverse committee report must be approved by a majority of the members voting.

Failure to adopt a motion to reject an adverse committee report constitutes adoption of the report.

(3) If the House rejects an adverse committee report, the bill progresses to second reading, as scheduled by the Speaker, with any amendments recommended by the committee.

H40-110. Consent calendar procedure. (1) Noncontroversial bills and simple and joint resolutions may be recommended for the consent calendar by a standing committee and processed according to the following provisions:

(a) To be eligible for the consent calendar, the legislation must receive a unanimous vote by the members of the standing committee in attendance (do pass, do pass as amended). In addition, a motion must be made and passed unanimously to place the legislation on the consent calendar and this action reflected in the committee report. Appropriation or revenue bills may not be recommended for the consent calendar.

(b) The legislation must then be sent to be processed and reproduced as a third reading version and specifically marked as a “consent calendar” item.

(2) Other legislation may be placed on the consent calendar by agreement between the Speaker and the minority leader following a positive recommendation by a standing committee. The legislation must be sent to be processed as a second reading version but must be specifically announced and posted as a “consent calendar” item.

(3) Legislation must be posted immediately (as soon as it is received appropriately printed) on the consent calendar and must remain there for 1 legislative day before consideration under Order of Business No. 11, special orders of the day. At that time, the presiding officer shall announce consideration of the consent calendar and allow “reasonable time” for questions and answers upon request. No debate is allowed.

(4) If any one representative submits a written objection to the placement of legislation on the consent calendar, the legislation must be removed from the consent calendar and added to the regular second reading board.

(5) Consent calendar legislation will be considered on Order of Business No. 8, third reading of bills, following the regular third reading agenda, as separately noted on the agenda.

(6) Legislation on the consent calendar must be considered individually with the roll call vote spread on the journal as the final vote in the House.

(7) Legislation passed on the consent calendar must then be transmitted to the Senate. Legislation must be appropriately printed prior to transmittal.

H40-120. Legislation requiring other than a majority vote. Legislation that requires other than a majority vote for final passage needs only a majority vote for any action that is taken prior to third reading and that normally requires a majority vote.

H40-130. Amending House second and third reading agendas – vote requirements. (1) A majority of representatives present may rearrange or remove legislation from either the second or third reading agenda on that legislative day.

(2) (a) Legislation reported out of committee may be added to the second reading agenda on that legislative day on a motion approved by a majority of the members present and voting.

(b) Legislation reported out of the Committee of the Whole may be added to the third reading agenda on 1 day's notice on a motion approved by a majority of the members present and voting.

H40-140. Second reading – timing – obverse vote on failed motion – status of amendments – rejection of report – segregation. (1) Legislation returned or withdrawn from committee by motion must be placed on second reading prior to the transmittal deadlines provided for in Joint Rule 40-200 that are applicable to each piece of legislation.

(2) The House shall form itself into a Committee of the Whole to consider business on second reading. The Committee of the Whole may debate legislation, attach amendments, and recommend approval or disapproval of legislation.

(3) Except on the final legislative day, at least 1 legislative day must elapse between the time legislation is reported from committee and the time it is considered on second reading.

(4) If a motion to recommend that a bill “do pass” or “be concurred in” fails in the Committee of the Whole, the obverse, i.e., a recommendation that the bill “do not pass” or “be not

concurred in”, is considered to have passed. If a motion to recommend that a bill “do not pass” or “be not concurred in” fails in the Committee of the Whole, the obverse, i.e., a recommendation that the bill “do pass” or “be concurred in”, is considered to have passed.

(5) An amendment attached to legislation by the Committee of the Whole remains unless removed by further legislative action.

(6) When the Committee of the Whole reports to the House, the House shall adopt or reject the Committee of the Whole report. If the House rejects the Committee of the Whole report, the legislation remains on second reading, as amended by the Committee of the Whole, and must be acted on by the Committee of the Whole by the next legislative day unless the House orders otherwise.

(7) A representative may move to segregate legislation from the Committee of the Whole report before the report is adopted. Segregated legislation, as amended by the Committee of the Whole, must be placed on second reading unless the House orders otherwise. Amendments adopted by the Committee of the Whole on segregated legislation remain adopted unless reconsidered pursuant to H50-170 or unless the legislation is rereferred to a committee.

H40-150. Amendments in the Committee of the Whole – timing – official records. (1) All Committee of the Whole amendments must be prepared by the Legislative Services Division and checked by the House amendments coordinator for format, style, clarity, consistency, and other factors, in accordance with the most recent Bill Drafting Manual published by the Legislative Services Division, before the amendment may be accepted at the rostrum. The amendment form must include the date and time the amendment is submitted for that check.

(2) An amendment submitted to the rostrum for consideration by the Committee of the Whole must be marked as checked by the amendments coordinator and signed by a representative. Unless the majority leader, the minority leader, and sponsor agree, amendments must be printed and placed on the members’ desks or electronically posted or sent to the members prior to consideration.

(3) An amendment may not be proposed until the sponsor has opened on a bill.

(4) A copy of every amendment rejected by the Committee of the Whole must be kept as part of the official records.

(5) An amendment may not change the original purpose of the bill.

H40-160. Motions in the Committee of the Whole – quorum required. (1) When the House resolves itself into a Committee of the Whole, the only motions in order are to:

- (a) recommend passage or nonpassage;
- (b) recommend concurrence or nonconcurrence (Senate amendments to House legislation);
- (c) amend;
- (d) reconsider as provided in H50-170;
- (e) pass consideration;
- (f) call for cloture;
- (g) change the order in which legislation is placed on the agenda; and
- (h) rise, rise and report, or rise and report progress and beg leave to sit again.

(2) Subsections (1)(d) through (1)(f) and (1)(h) are nondebatable but may be amended. Once a motion under subsection (1)(a) or (1)(b) is made, a contrary motion is not in order.

(3) The motions listed in subsection (1) may be made in descending order as listed.

(4) If a quorum of representatives is not present during second reading, the Committee of the Whole may not conduct business on legislation and a motion for a call of the House without a quorum is in order.

H40-170. Limits on debate in the Committee of the Whole. (1) Except as provided in H40-180, a representative may not speak more than once on the motion and may speak for no more than 5 minutes. The representative who makes the motion may speak a second time for 5 minutes in order to close.

(2) (a) Except as provided in subsection (2)(b), after at least two proponents and two opponents have spoken on a question

and 30 minutes have elapsed from the point in time that the sponsor's opening remarks on the motion end and debate on the motion begins, a motion to call for cloture is in order.

(b) (i) The 30-minute tolling requirement for a cloture motion made pursuant to subsection (2)(a) does not include time spent on floor debate of a substitute motion to amend the original question.

(ii) Each substitute motion to amend the original question is subject to a cloture motion and the cloture requirements provided for in this rule.

(iii) Once a substitute motion to amend is dispensed with and there are no other substitute motions to amend, the 30-minute tolling requirement for the original question pursuant to subsection (2)(a) resumes from the point in time in which the first substitute motion to amend was made.

(c) Approval by not less than two-thirds of the members present and voting is required to sustain a motion for cloture. Notwithstanding the passage of a motion to end debate, the sponsor of the motion on which debate was ended may close.

(3) By previous agreement of the majority leader and the minority leader:

(a) a lead proponent and a lead opponent may be granted additional time to speak on a bill;

(b) a bill or resolution may be allocated a predetermined amount of time for debate and number of speakers.

(4) A representative, when speaking in the Committee of the Whole, shall keep the representative's discussion to the bill and avoid discussion of topics unrelated to the bill.

H40-180. Special provisions for debate on the general appropriations bill – sections – amendments. (1) The Appropriations Committee chairman, in presenting the bill, is not subject to the 5-minute speaking limitation.

(2) Each appropriations subcommittee chairman shall fully present the chairman's portion of the bill. A subcommittee chairman is not subject to the 5-minute speaking limitation.

(3) After the presentation by the subcommittee chairman, the respective section of the bill is open for debate, questions,

and amendments. A proposed amendment to the general appropriations act may not be divided.

(4) An amendment that affects more than one section of the bill must be offered when the first section affected is considered.

(5) Following completion of the debate on each section, that section is closed and may not be reopened except by majority vote.

(6) If a member moves to reopen a section for amendment, only the amendment of that member may be entertained. Another member wishing to amend the same section shall make a separate motion to reopen the section.

(7) Debate on the motion to reopen a section is limited to the question of reopening the section. The amendment itself may not be debated at that time. This limitation does not prohibit the member from explaining the amendment to be considered.

H40-190. Engrossing. (1) After legislation is passed on second reading, it must be engrossed within 48 hours under the direction of the Speaker. The Speaker may grant an additional 24 hours for engrossing.

(2) When the legislation that has passed second reading, as amended, has been correctly engrossed, it must be placed on third reading on the following legislative day. If the bill is not amended, the bill must be sent to printing and must be placed on third reading on the legislative day after receipt. On the final legislative day, the correctly engrossed legislation may be placed on third reading on the same legislative day. For the purposes of this rule, “engrossing” means placing amendments in a bill. (See Joint Rule 40-150.)

H40-200. Third reading. (1) All bills, joint resolutions, and Senate amendments to House bills and joint resolutions passing second reading must be placed on third reading the day following the receipt of the engrossing or other appropriate printing report.

(2) Legislation on third reading may not be amended or debated.

(3) The Speaker shall state the question on legislation on third reading. If a majority of the representatives voting does not approve the legislation, it fails to pass third reading.

H40-210. Senate legislation in the House. Senate legislation properly transmitted to the House must be treated as House legislation.

H40-220. Senate amendments to House legislation. (1) When the Senate has properly returned House legislation with Senate amendments, the House shall announce the amendments on Order of Business No. 4, and the Speaker shall place them on second reading for debate. The Speaker may, with the approval of the House, rerefer House legislation with Senate amendments to a committee for a hearing if the Senate amendments constitute a significant change in the House legislation. The second reading vote is limited to consideration of the Senate amendments.

(2) If the House accepts Senate amendments, the House shall place the final form of the legislation on third reading to determine if the legislation, as amended, is passed or if the required vote is obtained.

(3) If the House rejects the Senate amendments, the House may request the Senate to recede from its amendments or may direct appointment of a conference committee and request the Senate to appoint a like committee.

H40-230. Conference committee reports. (1) When a House conference committee files a report, the report must be announced under Order of Business No. 3.

(2) The House may debate and adopt or reject the conference committee report on second reading on any legislative day. The House may reconsider its action in rejecting a conference committee report under rules for reconsideration, H50-170.

(3) If both the House and the Senate adopt the same conference committee report on legislation requiring more than a majority vote for final passage, the House, following approval of the conference committee report on third reading, shall place the final form of the legislation on third reading to determine if the required vote is obtained.

(4) If the House rejects a conference committee report, the committee continues to exist unless dissolved by the Speaker or by motion. The committee may file a subsequent report.

(5) A House conference committee may confer regarding matters assigned to it with any Senate conference committee with like jurisdiction and submit recommendations for consideration of the House.

H40-240. Enrolling. (1) When House legislation has passed both houses, it must be enrolled within 48 hours under the direction of the Speaker. The Speaker may grant an additional 24 hours for enrolling.

(2) The chief sponsor of the legislation shall examine the enrolled legislation and, if it has no enrolling errors, shall, within 1 legislative day, certify the legislation as correctly enrolled.

(3) The correctly enrolled legislation must be delivered to the Speaker, who shall sign the legislation within 1 day of receipt of the correctly enrolled legislation unless the bill sponsor concurs to delay the signing of the enrolled legislation.

(4) After the legislation has been reported correctly enrolled but before it is signed, any representative may examine the legislation. (See Joint Rule 40-160.)

H40-250. Governor's amendments. (1) (a) When the Governor returns a bill with recommended amendments, the House shall announce the amendments under Order of Business No. 5.

(b) The Governor's amendments must be placed on the second reading agenda for consideration by the Committee of the Whole or may be assigned to a committee in accordance with the House Rules Appendix for a recommendation of adoption or rejection of the Governor's amendments.

(2) The House may debate and adopt or reject the Governor's recommended amendments on second reading on any legislative day.

(3) If both the House and the Senate accept the Governor's recommended amendments on a bill that requires more than a majority vote for final passage, the House shall place the final form of the legislation on third reading to determine if the required vote is obtained.

H40-260. Governor's veto. (1) When the Governor returns a bill with a veto, the House shall announce the veto under Order of Business No. 5.

(2) On any legislative day, a representative may move to override the Governor's veto by a two-thirds vote under Order of Business No. 9.

CHAPTER 5

Floor Actions

H50-10. Attendance – excuse – call of the House. (1) A representative, unless excused, is required to be present at every sitting of the House.

(2) A representative may request in writing to be excused for a specified cause by the representative's party leader. This excused absence is not a leave with cause from a call of the House.

H50-20. Quorum. (1) A quorum of the House is fifty-one representatives (Montana Constitution, Art. V, Sec. 10).

(2) Any representative may question the lack of a quorum at any time a vote is not being taken. The question is nondebtable, may not be amended, and is resolved by a roll call.

(3) The House may not conduct business without a quorum, except that representatives present may convene, compel the attendance of absent representatives, or adjourn.

H50-30. Call of the House without a quorum. (1) In the absence of a quorum, a majority of the representatives present may compel the attendance of absent representatives through a call of the House without a quorum. The motion for the call is nondebtable, may not be amended, and is in order at any time it has been established that a quorum is not present.

(2) During a call of the House, all business is suspended. No motion is in order except a motion to adjourn or to remove the call.

(3) When a quorum has been achieved under the call, the call is automatically lifted. The call may also be lifted by a successful motion to adjourn for the day or by two-thirds of the representatives present and voting.

H50-50. Leave with cause during call of the House. (1) During a call of the House, a representative with an overriding medical or personal reason may request a leave with cause.

(2) If the representative is present at the time of the call, the Speaker, with the approval of a majority of representatives present, may approve a request for a leave with cause.

(3) If the representative is not present at the time of the call, two-thirds of the representatives present and voting may approve a request for leave with cause.

(4) During a call of the House, a representative on leave with cause may not cast an absentee vote.

H50-60. Opening and order of business. The opening of each legislative day must include an invocation, the pledge of allegiance, and roll call. Following the opening, the order of business of the House is as follows:

- (1) communications and petitions;
- (2) reports of standing committees;
- (3) reports of select committees;
- (4) messages from the Senate;
- (5) messages from the Governor;
- (6) first reading and commitment of bills;
- (7) second reading of bills;
- (8) third reading of bills;
- (9) motions;
- (10) unfinished business;
- (11) special orders of the day; and
- (12) announcement of committee meetings.

H50-65. Request to move to any order of business. (1) Except as provided in subsection (2), the Speaker pro tempore, the majority leader, or the minority leader may request that the House move to any order of business at any time.

(2) If the House has resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole under Order of Business No. 7, a representative may not request that the House move to any order of business.

H50-70. Motions. (1) Any representative may propose a motion allowed by the rules for the order of business under which the motion is offered for the consideration of the House. Unless otherwise specified in rule or law, a majority of representatives voting is necessary and sufficient to decide a motion.

(2) Seconds to motions on the House floor are not required.

(3) Absentee votes are not allowed on votes that are specified as “representatives present and voting”.

(4) The majority leader shall make routine procedural motions required to conduct the business of the House.

H50-80. Limits on debate of debatable motions.

(1) Except for the representative who places a debatable motion before the body, no representative may speak more than once on the question unless a unanimous House consents. The representative who places the motion may close.

(2) No representative may speak for more than 10 minutes on the same question, except that a representative may have 5 minutes to close.

H50-90. Nondebatable motions. (1) A representative has the right to understand any question before the House and, usually under the administration of the presiding officer, may ask questions to exercise this right.

(2) The following motions are nondebatable:

(a) for a call of the House;

(b) to recess or rise;

(c) for parliamentary inquiry;

(d) to table or take from the table;

(e) to call for the previous question or cloture;

(f) to amend a nondebatable motion;

(g) to divide a question;

(h) to suspend the rules;

(i) all incidental motions, such as motions relating to voting or of a general procedural nature;

- (j) to appeal a call to order;
- (k) to question the lack of a quorum pursuant to H50-20; and
- (l) to change a vote pursuant to H50-210.

H50-100. Questions. A representative may, through the presiding officer, ask questions of another representative during a floor session. There is no limit on questions and answers, except as provided in H20-50.

H50-110. Amending motions – limitations. (1) A representative may move to amend the specific provisions of a motion without changing its substance.

(2) No more than one motion to amend a motion is in order at any one time.

(3) A motion for a call of the House, for the previous question, to table, or to take from the table may not be amended.

H50-120. Substitute motions. (1) When a question is before the House, no substitute motion may be made except the following, which have precedence in the order listed:

- (a) to adjourn (nondebatable H50-90);
- (b) for a call of the House (nondebatable H50-90);
- (c) to recess or rise (nondebatable H50-90);
- (d) for a question of privilege;
- (e) to table (nondebatable H50-90);
- (f) to call for the previous question or cloture;
- (g) to postpone consideration to a day certain;
- (h) to refer to a committee; and
- (i) to propose amendments.

(2) Nothing in this section allows a motion that would not otherwise be allowed under a particular order of business.

(3) (a) Except as provided in subsection (3)(b), no more than one substitute motion is in order at any one time.

(b) A motion for cloture is in order on a substitute motion to amend.

H50-130. Withdrawing motions. A representative who proposes a motion may withdraw it before it is voted on or amended.

H50-140. Dividing a question. Except as provided in H40-180(3), a representative may request to divide a question as a matter of right if it includes two or more propositions so distinct that they can be separated and if at least one substantive question remains after one substantive question is removed. The request is nondebatable under H50-90. The presiding officer may rule that a question is nondivisible. The ruling of the chair may be appealed as provided in H20-20(1), H20-80(2), H50-160(13), and H70-50. For an appeal of a ruling of the presiding officer, the question for the house must be stated as, "Shall the ruling of the chair be upheld?"

H50-150. Previous question – close. (1) If a majority of representatives present and voting adopts a motion for the previous question, debate is closed on the question and it must be brought to a vote. The Speaker may not entertain a motion to end debate unless at least one proponent and one opponent have spoken on the question.

(2) Notwithstanding the passage of a motion to end debate, the sponsor of the motion on which debate was ended may close.

H50-160. Questions requiring other than a majority vote. The following questions require the vote specified for each condition:

100 House Members

(1) a motion to approve a bill to appropriate the principal of the tobacco settlement trust fund pursuant to Article XII, section 4, of the Montana Constitution (two-thirds);

(2) a motion to approve a bill to appropriate the principal of the coal severance tax trust fund pursuant to Article IX, section 5, of the Montana Constitution (three-fourths);

(3) a motion to approve a bill to appropriate highway revenue, as described in Article VIII, section 6, of the Montana Constitution, for purposes other than therein described (three-fifths);

(4) a motion to approve a bill to authorize creation of state debt pursuant to Article VIII, section 8, of the Montana Constitution (two-thirds);

(5) a motion to appropriate the principal of the noxious weed management trust fund pursuant to Article IX, section 6, of the Montana Constitution (three-fourths);

(6) a motion to temporarily suspend a joint rule governing the procedure for handling bills pursuant to Joint Rule 60-10(2) (two-thirds).

Members Present and Voting

(1) a motion to override the Governor's veto pursuant to H40-260 and Article VI, section 10(3), of the Montana Constitution (two-thirds);

(2) a motion to lift a call of the House pursuant to H50-30(3) (two-thirds);

(3) a motion to withdraw a bill from a committee after a committee hearing on the bill pursuant to H40-90 approved by no fewer than 55 of the members;

(4) a motion to remove legislation from its normal progress through the House as provided under H40-80(3) and reassign it unless otherwise specifically provided by these rules (three-fifths);

(5) a motion to change a vote pursuant to H50-210 (unanimous);

(6) a motion to call for cloture pursuant to H40-170(2) (two-thirds);

(7) a motion to approve a bill conferring immunity from suit as described in Article II, section 18, of the Montana Constitution (two-thirds);

(8) a motion to amend rules pursuant to H70-10(2) or suspend rules pursuant to H70-30 (two-thirds);

(9) a motion to record a vote pursuant to H50-200(2) (one representative);

(10) a motion to record a vote in the journal (two representatives);

(11) a motion to speak more than once on a debatable motion pursuant to H50-80(1) (unanimous vote);

(12) a motion by the House to change the membership of a committee pursuant to H30-05(3) and H30-10(9) approved by three-fifths of the members;

(13) a motion to appeal the presiding officer's interpretation of the rules to the House Rules Committee pursuant to H70-50 (15 representatives).

Entire Legislature

(1) a motion to approve a bill proposing to amend the Montana Constitution pursuant to Article XIV, section 8, of the Montana Constitution (two-thirds of the entire Legislature).

H50-170. Reconsideration – time restriction. (1) Any representative may, within 1 legislative day of a vote, move to reconsider the House vote on any matter still within the control of the House.

(2) A motion to reconsider is a debatable motion, but the debate is limited to the motion. The debate on a motion to reconsider is limited to two proponents and two opponents to the motion and the debate may not address the substance of the matter for which reconsideration is sought. However, an inquiry may be made concerning the purpose of the motion to reconsider.

(3) A motion for reconsideration, unless tabled or replaced by a substitute motion, must be disposed of when made.

(4) When a motion for reconsideration fails, the question is finally settled. A motion for reconsideration may not be renewed or reconsidered.

(5) A motion to recall legislation from the Senate constitutes a motion to reconsider and is subject to the same rules.

(6) A motion for reconsideration is not in order on a vote to postpone to a day certain or to table legislation.

(7) There may be only one reconsideration vote on a specific issue on a legislative day.

H50-180. Renewing procedural motions. The House may renew a procedural motion if further House business has intervened.

H50-190. Tabling. (1) Under Order of Business No. 9, a representative may move to table any question, motion, or legislation before the House except the question of a quorum or a call of the House. The motion is nondebatable and may not be amended.

(2) When a matter has been tabled, a representative may move to take it from the table under Order of Business No. 9 on any legislative day.

H50-200. Voting – conflict of interest – present by electronic means. (1) The representatives shall vote to decide any motion or question properly before the House. Each representative has one vote.

(2) The House may, without objection, use a voice vote on procedural motions that are not required to be recorded in the journal. If a representative rises and objects, the House shall record the vote.

(3) The House shall record the vote on all substantive questions. If the voting system is inoperable, the Chief Clerk shall record the representatives' votes by other means.

(4) A member who is present shall vote unless the member has disclosed a conflict of interest to the House.

(5) A member may be present for a vote by electronic means, with the permission of the speaker.

H50-210. Changing a vote – consent required. (1) A representative may move to change the representative's vote within 1 legislative day of the vote. The motion is nondebatable. The motion must be made on Order of Business No. 9, motions. All of the members present and voting are required to consent to the change in order for it to be effective.

(2) The representative making the motion shall first specify the bill number, the question, and the original vote tally. A vote may not be changed if it would affect the outcome of legislation.

(3) A vote change must be entered into the journal as a notation that the member's vote was changed. The original printed vote will not be reprinted to reflect the change.

(4) An error caused by a malfunction of the voting system may be corrected without a vote.

H50-220. Absentee votes – restrictions. (1) An excused representative may file an absentee vote authorization form to vote during the excused absence on any vote for which absentee voting is allowed.

(2) An excused representative shall sign an absentee vote authorization form that specifies the motion and the desired vote.

(3) The absentee vote authorization form must be handed in at the rostrum by the party whip or designated representative before voting on the motion has commenced.

(4) The absentee vote authorization may be revoked before the vote by the member who signed the authorization.

(5) Absentee voting is not allowed on third reading or on motions specified as present and voting pursuant to H50-70.

H50-230. Recess. The House may stand at ease or recess under any order of business by order of the Speaker or a majority vote. The recess may be ended at the call of the chair or at a time specified.

H50-240. Adjournment for a legislative day. (1) A representative may move that the House adjourn for that legislative day. The motion is nondebatable and may be made under any order of business except Order of Business No. 7.

(2) A motion to adjourn for a legislative day must specify a date and time for the House to convene on the subsequent legislative day.

H50-250. Adjournment sine die. Subject to Article V, section 10(5), of the Montana Constitution, a representative may move that the House adjourn for the session. The motion is debatable and may be made under any order of business except Order of Business No. 7.

CHAPTER 6

Motions

H60-10. Proposal for consideration. (1) Every question presented to the House or a committee must be submitted as a definite proposition.

(2) A representative has the right to understand any question before the House and, under the authority of the presiding officer, may ask questions to exercise this right.

(3) Except as provided in H50-160 or as specifically provided for in these House Rules, a majority vote of representatives voting is necessary for a motion or question to pass.

H60-20. Nondebatable motions. The following motions, in addition to any other motion specifically designated, must be decided without debate:

(1) to adjourn;

(2) for a call of the House;

(3) to recess or rise;

(4) for parliamentary inquiry;

(5) to table or to take from the table;

(6) to call for the previous question or for cloture;

(7) to amend a nondebatable motion;

(8) to divide a question;

(9) to suspend the rules; and

(10) all incidental motions, such as motions relating to voting or of a general procedural nature.

H60-30. Motions allowed during debate. (1) When a question is under debate, only the following motions are in order. The motions have precedence in the following order:

(a) to adjourn;

(b) for a call of the House;

(c) to recess or rise;

- (d) for a question of privilege;
- (e) to table or take from the table;
- (f) to call for the previous question or cloture;
- (g) to postpone consideration to a day certain;
- (h) to refer or rerefer; and
- (i) to propose amendments.

(2) This section does not allow a motion that would not otherwise be allowed under a particular order of business.

(3) Only one substitute motion is in order at any time.

H60-40. Motions to adjourn or recess. (1) A motion to adjourn or recess is always in order, except:

- (a) when the House is voting on another motion;
- (b) when the previous question has been ordered and before the final vote;
- (c) when a member entitled to the floor has not yielded for that purpose; or
- (d) when business has not been transacted after the defeat of a motion to adjourn or recess.

(2) A motion to adjourn sine die pursuant to H50-250 is subject to Article V, section 10(5), of the Montana Constitution.

(3) The vote by which a motion to adjourn or recess is carried or fails is not subject to a motion to reconsider.

H60-50. Motion to table. (1) A motion to table, if carried, has the effect of postponing action on the proposition to which it was applied until superseded by a motion to take from the table.

(2) After a vote on a motion to table is carried or fails, the motion cannot be reconsidered.

(3) A motion to table is not in order after the previous question has been ordered.

H60-60. Motion to postpone. A motion to postpone to a day certain may be amended and is debatable within narrow limits. The merits of the proposition that is the subject of the motion to postpone may not be debated.

H60-70. Motion to refer. When a motion is made to refer a subject to a standing committee or select committee, the question on the referral to a standing committee must be put first.

H60-80. Terms of debate on motion to refer or rerefer. (1) A motion to refer or rerefer is debatable within narrow limits. The merits of the proposition that is the subject of the motion may not be debated.

(2) A motion to refer or rerefer with instructions is fully debatable.

H60-100. Moving the previous question after a motion to table. (1) If a motion to table is made directly to a main motion, a motion for the previous question is not in order.

(2) If an amendment to a main motion is pending and a motion to table is made, the previous question may be called on the main motion, the pending amendment, and the motion to table the amendment.

H60-105. Motion to direct standing, select, special, or conference committee action. A representative may move that the House direct a standing, select, special, or conference committee take an action of:

(1) scheduling a bill in the committee's possession for a hearing and public testimony on a date certain; or

(2) acting on a bill, Governor's amendments, or Senate amendments in the committee's possession by a date certain.

H60-110. Standard motions. The following are standard motions:

(1) moving House bills or resolutions on second reading, "Mister/Madam Chairman, I move that when this committee does rise and report after having under consideration House Bill ___, that it recommend the same (do pass)/(do pass as amended)/(do not pass)."

(2) moving Senate bills and Senate amendments to House bills, "Mister/Madam Chairman, I move that when this committee does rise and report after having under consideration Senate Bill ___/Senate amendments to House Bill ___, that it recommend the same (be concurred in)/(be not concurred in)."

(3) Committee of the Whole floor amendments, “Mister/Madam Chairman, I move that House Bill___/Senate Bill ___ be amended and request that the amendment be posted and deemed read.”

(4) introducing visitors, “Mister/Madam Speaker/Chairman, I request that we be off the record and out of the journal.”

(5) changing a vote, “Mister Speaker, I would like my vote changed on House Bill ___/Senate Bill ___ from (yes/no) to (yes/no). The question on the bill was () with a vote tally of ___ for and ___ against.”

(6) question another representative, “Mister/Madam Speaker/Chairman, would Representative ___ yield to a question?”

CHAPTER 7

Rules

H70-10. House rules – amendment – report timing.

(1) The House may adopt, through a House resolution passed by a majority of its members, rules to govern its proceedings.

(2) After adoption of the House rules, two-thirds of the representatives voting must vote in favor of the question to amend the rules.

(3) The Speaker shall refer to the House Rules Committee all resolutions for House rules and joint rules.

(4) The House Rules Committee shall report all resolutions for House rules and joint rules within 1 legislative day of referral.

H70-20. Tenure of rules. Rules adopted by the House remain in effect until removed by House resolution or until a new House is elected and takes office.

H70-30. Suspension of rules. The House may suspend a House rule on a motion approved by not less than two-thirds of the members voting.

H70-40. Supplementary rules. Mason's Manual of Legislative Procedure (2020) governs House proceedings in all cases not covered by House rules.

H70-50. Interpreting rules – appeal. The Speaker shall interpret all questions on House rules, subject to appeal by any 15 representatives to the House Rules Committee. Unless the delay would cause legislation to fail to meet a scheduled deadline, the House Rules Committee may consider and report on the appeal on the next legislative day. The decision of the House Rules Committee may be appealed to the House by any representative.

H70-60. Joint rules superseded. A House rule, insofar as it relates to the internal proceedings of the House, supersedes a joint rule.

Appendix

(1) Except as provided in subsections (2) through (4), legislation dealing with an enumerated subject must be referred to a standing committee as follows:

Agriculture: Agriculture; country of origin labeling for products; crops; crop insurance; farm subsidies; fuel produced from grain; grazing (other than state land leases); irrigation; livestock; poultry; and weed control.

Appropriations: Appropriations for the Legislature, general government, and bonding, including supplemental appropriations and the coal severance tax.

Business and Labor: Alcohol regulation other than taxation; associations; corporations; credit transactions; employment; financial institutions; gambling; insurance; labor unions; partnerships; private sector pensions and pension plans; professions and occupations other than the practice of law; salaries and wages; sales; secured transactions; securities regulation other than criminal provisions; sports other than hunting, fishing, and competition water sports; trade regulation; unemployment insurance; the Uniform Commercial Code; and workers' compensation.

Education: Higher education; home schools; K-12 education; religion in schools; school buildings and other structures; school libraries and university system libraries; school safety; school sports; school staff other than teachers; school transportation; students; teachers; and vocational education and training.

Ethics: Ethical standards applicable to members, officers, and employees of the House and ethical standards for lobbyists.

Energy, Technology, and Federal Relations: Energy generation and transmission; Indian reservations; international relations; interstate cooperation and compacts, except those relating to law enforcement and water compacts; relations with the federal government; relations with sovereign Indian tribes; telecommunications; technology; and utilities other than municipal utilities.

Fish, Wildlife, and Parks: Fish; fishing; hunting; outdoor recreation; parks other than those owned by local governments; relations with federal and state governments concerning fish

and wildlife; Virginia City and Nevada City; water sports; and wildlife.

Human Services: Developmentally disabled persons; disabled persons; health; health and disability insurance; housing; human services; mental illness or incapacity; retirement other than pensions and pension plans; senior citizens; tobacco regulation other than taxation; and welfare.

Judiciary: Abortion; arbitration and mediation; civil procedure; constitutional amendments; consumer protection; contracts; corrections; courts; criminal law; criminal procedure; discrimination; evidence; family law; fees imposed by or relating to the court system; guaranty; human rights; impeachment; indemnity; judicial system; landlord and tenant; law enforcement; liability and immunity from liability; minors; practice of law; privacy; property law; religion other than in schools; state law library; surety; torts; and trusts and estates.

Legislative Administration: Interim committees and matters related to legislative administration, staffing patterns, budgets, equipment, operations, and expenditures.

Local Government: Cities; consolidated governments; counties; libraries and parks owned or operated by local governments; local development; local government finance and revenue; local government officers and employees, local planning; special districts and other political subdivisions, except school districts; towns; and zoning.

Natural Resources: Board of Land Commissioners; dams, except for electrical generation; emission standards; environmental protection; extractive activities; fires and fire protection, except for a local government fire department; forests and forestry; hazardous waste; mines and mining; natural gas; natural resources; oil; pollution; solid waste; state land, except state parks; water and water rights; water bodies and water courses; and water compacts.

Rules: House rules; joint rules; legislative procedure; jurisdictions of committees; and rules of decorum.

State Administration: Administrative rules; arts and antiquities; ballots; elections; initiative and referendum procedures; military affairs; public contracts and procurement; public employee retirement systems; state buildings; state employees; state employee benefits; state equipment and

property, except state lands and state parks; state government generally; state-owned libraries other than the state law library; veterans; and voting.

Taxation: Taxes other than fuel taxes.

Transportation: Fuel taxes; highways; railroads; roads; traffic regulation; transportation generally; vehicles; and vehicle safety.

(2) If a select committee is created to address a specific subject, then bills relating to that subject must be assigned to the select committee.

(3) (a) If legislation deals with more than one subject and the subjects are assigned to more than one committee, the bill must be assigned to a class one committee before a class two committee and to a class two committee before a class three committee. If there is a conflict of subjects between the same class of committees, then the bill must be assigned by the Speaker.

(b) If a bill contains substantive provisions dealing with policy and an appropriation, the bill must be referred to the committee with jurisdiction over the subject addressed in the policy provisions. If the bill is reported from the committee to which it was assigned, the Speaker may rerefer the bill to the Appropriations Committee. The referral must be announced to the House. The rereferral does not require action or approval by the House, but may be overturned by a majority vote.

(4) If a committee chair upon consultation with the vice chair determines that the committee cannot effectively process all bills assigned to the committee because of time limitations, the chair shall, in writing, request the Speaker to reassign specific bills. The Speaker shall reassign the bills to an appropriate committee. The reassignments must be announced to the House. The reassignments do not require action or approval by the House, but may be overturned by a majority vote.

**THE CONSTITUTION
OF THE
STATE OF MONTANA**

PREAMBLE

We the people of Montana grateful to God for the quiet beauty of our state, the grandeur of our mountains, the vastness of our rolling plains, and desiring to improve the quality of life, equality of opportunity and to secure the blessings of liberty for this and future generations do ordain and establish this constitution.

ARTICLE I

COMPACT WITH THE UNITED STATES

All provisions of the enabling act of Congress (approved February 22, 1889, 25 Stat. 676), as amended and of Ordinance No. 1, appended to the Constitution of the state of Montana and approved February 22, 1889, including the agreement and declaration that all lands owned or held by any Indian or Indian tribes shall remain under the absolute jurisdiction and control of the congress of the United States, continue in full force and effect until revoked by the consent of the United States and the people of Montana.

ARTICLE II

DECLARATION OF RIGHTS

Section 1. Popular sovereignty. All political power is vested in and derived from the people. All government of right originates with the people, is founded upon their will only, and is instituted solely for the good of the whole.

Section 2. Self-government. The people have the exclusive right of governing themselves as a free, sovereign, and independent state. They may alter or abolish the constitution and form of government whenever they deem it necessary.

Section 3. Inalienable rights. All persons are born free and have certain inalienable rights. They include the right to a clean and healthful environment and the rights of pursuing life's basic necessities, enjoying and defending their lives and liberties, acquiring, possessing and protecting property, and seeking their safety, health and happiness in all lawful ways. In enjoying these rights, all persons recognize corresponding responsibilities.

Section 4. Individual dignity. The dignity of the human being is inviolable. No person shall be denied the equal protection of the laws. Neither the state nor any person, firm, corporation, or institution shall discriminate against any person in the exercise of his civil or political rights on

account of race, color, sex, culture, social origin or condition, or political or religious ideas.

Section 5. Freedom of religion. The state shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion or prohibiting the free exercise thereof.

Section 6. Freedom of assembly. The people shall have the right peaceably to assemble, petition for redress or peaceably protest governmental action.

Section 7. Freedom of speech, expression, and press. No law shall be passed impairing the freedom of speech or expression. Every person shall be free to speak or publish whatever he will on any subject, being responsible for all abuse of that liberty. In all suits and prosecutions for libel or slander the truth thereof may be given in evidence; and the jury, under the direction of the court, shall determine the law and the facts.

Section 8. Right of participation. The public has the right to expect governmental agencies to afford such reasonable opportunity for citizen participation in the operation of the agencies prior to the final decision as may be provided by law.

Section 9. Right to know. No person shall be deprived of the right to examine documents or to observe the deliberations of all public bodies or agencies of state government and its subdivisions, except in cases in which the demand of individual privacy clearly exceeds the merits of public disclosure.

Section 10. Right of privacy. The right of individual privacy is essential to the well-being of a free society and shall not be infringed without the showing of a compelling state interest.

Section 11. Searches and seizures. The people shall be secure in their persons, papers, electronic data and communications, homes and effects from unreasonable searches and seizures. No warrant to search any place, to seize any person or thing, or to access electronic data or communications shall issue without describing the place to be searched or the person or thing to be seized, or without probable cause, supported by oath or affirmation reduced to writing.

Section 12. Right to bear arms. The right of any person to keep or bear arms in defense of his own home, person, and property, or in aid of the civil power when thereto legally summoned, shall not be called in question, but nothing herein

contained shall be held to permit the carrying of concealed weapons.

Section 13. Right of suffrage. All elections shall be free and open, and no power, civil or military, shall at any time interfere to prevent the free exercise of the right of suffrage.

Section 14. Adult rights. A person 18 years of age or older is an adult for all purposes, except that the legislature or the people by initiative may establish the legal age for purchasing, consuming, or possessing alcoholic beverages and marijuana.

Section 15. Rights of persons not adults. The rights of persons under 18 years of age shall include, but not be limited to, all the fundamental rights of this Article unless specifically precluded by laws which enhance the protection of such persons.

Section 16. The administration of justice. Courts of justice shall be open to every person, and speedy remedy afforded for every injury of person, property, or character. No person shall be deprived of this full legal redress for injury incurred in employment for which another person may be liable except as to fellow employees and his immediate employer who hired him if such immediate employer provides coverage under the Workmen's Compensation Laws of this state. Right and justice shall be administered without sale, denial, or delay.

Section 17. Due process of law. No person shall be deprived of life, liberty, or property without due process of law.

Section 18. State subject to suit. The state, counties, cities, towns, and all other local governmental entities shall have no immunity from suit for injury to a person or property, except as may be specifically provided by law by a 2/3 vote of each house of the legislature.

Section 19. Habeas corpus. The privilege of the writ of habeas corpus shall never be suspended.

Section 20. Initiation of proceedings. (1) Criminal offenses within the jurisdiction of any court inferior to the district court shall be prosecuted by complaint. All criminal actions in district court, except those on appeal, shall be prosecuted either by information, after examination and commitment by a magistrate or after leave granted by the court, or by indictment without such examination, commitment or leave.

(2) A grand jury shall consist of eleven persons, of whom eight must concur to find an indictment. A grand jury shall be drawn and summoned only at the discretion and order of the district judge.

Section 21. Bail. All persons shall be bailable by sufficient sureties, except for capital offenses, when the proof is evident or the presumption great.

Section 22. Excessive sanctions. Excessive bail shall not be required, or excessive fines imposed, or cruel and unusual punishments inflicted.

Section 23. Detention. No person shall be imprisoned for the purpose of securing his testimony in any criminal proceeding longer than may be necessary in order to take his deposition. If he can give security for his appearance at the time of trial, he shall be discharged upon giving the same; if he cannot give security, his deposition shall be taken in the manner provided by law, and in the presence of the accused and his counsel, or without their presence, if they shall fail to attend the examination after reasonable notice of the time and place thereof.

Section 24. Rights of the accused. In all criminal prosecutions the accused shall have the right to appear and defend in person and by counsel; to demand the nature and cause of the accusation; to meet the witnesses against him face to face; to have process to compel the attendance of witnesses in his behalf, and a speedy public trial by an impartial jury of the county or district in which the offense is alleged to have been committed, subject to the right of the state to have a change of venue for any of the causes for which the defendant may obtain the same.

Section 25. Self-incrimination and double jeopardy. No person shall be compelled to testify against himself in a criminal proceeding. No person shall be again put in jeopardy for the same offense previously tried in any jurisdiction.

Section 26. Trial by jury. The right of trial by jury is secured to all and shall remain inviolate. But upon default of appearance or by consent of the parties expressed in such manner as the law may provide, all cases may be tried without a jury or before fewer than the number of jurors provided by law. In all civil actions, two-thirds of the jury may render a verdict, and a verdict so rendered shall have the same force and effect as if all had concurred therein. In all criminal actions, the verdict shall be unanimous.

Section 27. Imprisonment for debt. No person shall be imprisoned for debt except in the manner provided by

law, upon refusal to deliver up his estate for the benefit of his creditors, or in cases of tort, where there is strong presumption of fraud.

Section 28. Criminal justice policy — rights of the convicted. (1) Laws for the punishment of crime shall be founded on the principles of prevention, reformation, public safety, and restitution for victims.

(2) Full rights are restored by termination of state supervision for any offense against the state.

Section 29. Eminent domain. Private property shall not be taken or damaged for public use without just compensation to the full extent of the loss having been first made to or paid into court for the owner. In the event of litigation, just compensation shall include necessary expenses of litigation to be awarded by the court when the private property owner prevails.

Section 30. Treason and descent of estates. Treason against the state shall consist only in levying war against it, or in adhering to its enemies, giving them aid and comfort; no person shall be convicted of treason except on the testimony of two witnesses to the same overt act, or on his confession in open court; no person shall be attainted of treason or felony by the legislature; no conviction shall cause the loss of property to the relatives or heirs of the convicted. The estates of suicides shall descend or vest as in cases of natural death.

Section 31. Ex post facto, obligation of contracts, and irrevocable privileges. No ex post facto law nor any law impairing the obligation of contracts, or making any irrevocable grant of special privileges, franchises, or immunities, shall be passed by the legislature.

Section 32. Civilian control of the military. The military shall always be in strict subordination to the civil power; no soldier shall in time of peace be quartered in any house without the consent of the owner, nor in time of war, except in the manner provided by law.

Section 33. Importation of armed persons. No armed person or persons or armed body of men shall be brought into this state for the preservation of the peace, or the suppression of domestic violence, except upon the application of the legislature, or of the governor when the legislature cannot be convened.

Section 34. Unenumerated rights. The enumeration in this constitution of certain rights shall not be construed to deny, impair, or disparage others retained by the people.

Section 35. Servicemen, servicewomen, and veterans. The people declare that Montana servicemen, servicewomen, and veterans may be given special considerations determined by the legislature.

Section 36. (*Effective July 1, 2025*) Right to make decisions about pregnancy. (1) There is a right to make and carry out decisions about one's own pregnancy, including the right to abortion. This right shall not be denied or burdened unless justified by a compelling government interest achieved by the least restrictive means.

(2) The government may regulate the provision of abortion care after fetal viability provided that in no circumstance shall the government deny or burden access to an abortion that, in the good faith judgment of a treating health care professional, is medically indicated to protect the life or health of the pregnant patient.

(3) The government shall not penalize, prosecute, or otherwise take adverse action against a person based on the person's actual, potential, perceived, or alleged pregnancy outcomes. The government shall not penalize, prosecute, or otherwise take adverse action against a person for aiding or assisting another person in exercising their right to make and carry out decisions about their pregnancy with their voluntary consent.

(4) For the purposes of this section:

(a) A government interest is "compelling" only if it clearly and convincingly addresses a medically acknowledged, bona fide health risk to a pregnant patient and does not infringe on the patient's autonomous decision making.

(b) "Fetal viability" means the point in pregnancy when, in the good faith judgment of a treating health care professional and based on the particular facts of the case, there is a significant likelihood of the fetus's sustained survival outside the uterus without the application of extraordinary medical measures.

ARTICLE III

GENERAL GOVERNMENT

Section 1. Separation of powers. The power of the government of this state is divided into three distinct branches—legislative, executive, and judicial. No person or persons charged with the exercise of power properly belonging to one branch shall exercise any power properly belonging to either of the others, except as in this constitution expressly directed or permitted.

Section 2. Continuity of government. The seat of government shall be in Helena, except during periods of emergency resulting from disasters or enemy attack. The legislature may enact laws to insure the continuity of government during a period of emergency without regard for other provisions of the constitution. They shall be effective only during the period of emergency that affects a particular office or governmental operation.

Section 3. Oath of office. Members of the legislature and all executive, ministerial and judicial officers, shall take and subscribe the following oath or affirmation, before they enter upon the duties of their offices: "I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support, protect and defend the constitution of the United States, and the constitution of the state of Montana, and that I will discharge the duties of my office with fidelity (so help me God)." No other oath, declaration, or test shall be required as a qualification for any office or public trust.

Section 4. Initiative. (1) The people may enact laws by initiative on all matters except appropriations of money and local or special laws.

(2) Initiative petitions must contain the full text of the proposed measure, shall be signed by at least five percent of the qualified electors in each of at least one-third of the legislative representative districts and the total number of signers must be at least five percent of the total qualified electors of the state. Petitions shall be filed with the secretary of state at least three months prior to the election at which the measure will be voted upon.

(3) The sufficiency of the initiative petition shall not be questioned after the election is held.

Section 5. Referendum. (1) The people may approve or reject by referendum any act of the legislature except an appropriation of money. A referendum shall be held either upon order by the legislature or upon petition signed by at least five percent of the qualified electors in each of at least one-third of the legislative representative districts. The total number of signers must be at least five percent of the qualified electors of the state. A referendum petition shall be filed with the secretary of state no later than six months after adjournment of the legislature which passed the act.

(2) An act referred to the people is in effect until suspended by petitions signed by at least 15 percent of the qualified electors in a majority of the legislative representative districts. If so suspended the act shall become operative only after it is approved at an election, the result of which has been determined and declared as provided by law.

Section 6. Elections. The people shall vote on initiative and referendum measures at the general election unless the legislature orders a special election.

Section 7. Number of electors. (1) The number of qualified electors required in each legislative representative district and in the state shall be determined by the number of votes cast for the office of governor in the preceding general election.

(2) For the purposes of a constitutional amendment, the number of qualified electors in each county and in the state shall be determined by the number of votes cast for the office of governor in the preceding general election.

(3) For the purposes of a statutory initiative, the number of qualified electors required in each county and in the state shall be determined by the number of votes cast for the office of governor in the preceding general election.

Section 8. Prohibition. The provisions of this Article do not apply to CONSTITUTIONAL REVISION, Article XIV.

Section 9. Gambling. All forms of gambling, lotteries, and gift enterprises are prohibited unless authorized by acts of the legislature or by the people through initiative or referendum.

ARTICLE IV SUFFRAGE AND ELECTIONS

Section 1. Ballot. All elections by the people shall be by secret ballot.

Section 2. Qualified elector. Any citizen of the United States 18 years of age or older who meets the registration and residence requirements provided by law is a qualified elector unless he is serving a sentence for a felony in a penal institution or is of unsound mind, as determined by a court.

Section 3. Elections. The legislature shall provide by law the requirements for residence, registration, absentee voting, and administration of elections. It may provide for a system of poll booth registration, and shall insure the purity of elections and guard against abuses of the electoral process.

Section 4. Eligibility for public office. Any qualified elector is eligible to any public office except as otherwise provided in this constitution. The legislature may provide additional qualifications but no person convicted of a felony shall be eligible to hold office until his final discharge from state supervision.

Section 5. Result of elections. In all elections held by the people, the person or persons receiving the largest number of votes shall be declared elected.

Section 6. Privilege from arrest. A qualified elector is privileged from arrest at polling places and in going to and returning therefrom, unless apprehended in the commission of a felony or a breach of the peace.

Section 7. Ballot issues — challenges — elections. (1) An initiative or referendum that qualifies for the ballot under Article III or Article XIV shall be submitted to the qualified electors as provided in the Article under which the initiative or referendum qualified unless a new election is held pursuant to this section.

(2) A preelection challenge to the procedure by which an initiative or referendum qualified for the ballot or a postelection challenge to the manner in which the election was conducted shall be given priority by the courts.

(3) If the election on an initiative or referendum properly qualifying for the ballot is declared invalid because the election was improperly conducted, the secretary of state shall submit the issue to the qualified electors at the next regularly scheduled statewide election unless the legislature orders a special election.

Section 8. Limitation on terms of office. (1) The secretary of state or other authorized official shall not certify a candidate's nomination or election to, or print or cause to be printed on any ballot the name of a candidate for, one of the following offices if, at the end of the current term of that office, the candidate will have served in that office or had he not resigned or been recalled would have served in that office:

(a) 8 or more years in any 16-year period as governor, lieutenant governor, secretary of state, state auditor, attorney general, or superintendent of public instruction;

(b) 8 or more years in any 16-year period as a state representative;

(c) 8 or more years in any 16-year period as a state senator;

(d) 6 or more years in any 12-year period as a member of the U.S. house of representatives; and

(e) 12 or more years in any 24-year period as a member of the U.S. senate.

(2) When computing time served for purposes of subsection (1), the provisions of subsection (1) do not apply to time served in terms that end during or prior to January 1993.

(3) Nothing contained herein shall preclude an otherwise qualified candidate from being certified as nominated or elected by virtue of write-in votes cast for said candidate.

ARTICLE V

THE LEGISLATURE

Section 1. Power and structure. The legislative power is vested in a legislature consisting of a senate and a house of representatives. The people reserve to themselves the powers of initiative and referendum.

Section 2. Size. The size of the legislature shall be provided by law, but the senate shall not have more than 50 or fewer than 40 members and the house shall not have more than 100 or fewer than 80 members.

Section 3. Election and terms. A member of the house of representatives shall be elected for a term of two years and a member of the senate for a term of four years each to begin on a date provided by law. One-half of the senators shall be elected every two years.

Section 4. Qualifications. A candidate for the legislature shall be a resident of the state for at least one year next preceding the general election. For six months next preceding the general election, he shall be a resident of the county if it contains one or more districts or of the district if it contains all or parts of more than one county.

Section 5. Compensation. Each member of the legislature shall receive compensation for his services and allowances provided by law. No legislature may fix its own compensation.

Section 6. Sessions. The legislature shall meet each odd-numbered year in regular session of not more than 90 legislative days. Any legislature may increase the limit on the length of any subsequent session. The legislature may be convened in special sessions by the governor or at the written request of a majority of the members.

Section 7. Vacancies. A vacancy in the legislature shall be filled by special election for the unexpired term unless otherwise provided by law.

Section 8. Immunity. A member of the legislature is privileged from arrest during attendance at sessions of the legislature and in going to and returning therefrom, unless apprehended in the commission of a felony or a breach of the peace. He shall not be questioned in any other place for any speech or debate in the legislature.

Section 9. Disqualification. No member of the legislature shall, during the term for which he shall have been elected, be appointed to any civil office under the state; and no member of congress, or other person holding an office (except notary public, or the militia) under the United States or this state, shall be a member of the legislature during his continuance in office.

Section 10. Organization and procedure. (1) Each house shall judge the election and qualifications of its members. It may by law vest in the courts the power to try and determine contested elections. Each house shall choose its officers from among its members, keep a journal, and make rules for its proceedings. Each house may expel or punish a member for good cause shown with the concurrence of two-thirds of all its members.

(2) A majority of each house constitutes a quorum. A smaller number may adjourn from day to day and compel attendance of absent members.

(3) The sessions of the legislature and of the committee of the whole, all committee meetings, and all hearings shall be open to the public.

(4) The legislature may establish a legislative council and other interim committees. The legislature shall establish a legislative post-audit committee which shall supervise post-auditing duties provided by law.

(5) Neither house shall, without the consent of the other, adjourn or recess for more than three days or to any place other than that in which the two houses are sitting.

Section 11. Bills. (1) A law shall be passed by bill which shall not be so altered or amended on its passage through the legislature as to change its original purpose. No bill shall become law except by a vote of the majority of all members present and voting.

(2) Every vote of each member of the legislature on each substantive question in the legislature, in any committee, or in committee of the whole shall be recorded and made public. On final passage, the vote shall be taken by ayes and noes and the names entered on the journal.

(3) Each bill, except general appropriation bills and bills for the codification and general revision of the laws, shall contain only one subject, clearly expressed in its title. If any subject is embraced in any act and is not expressed in the title, only so much of the act not so expressed is void.

(4) A general appropriation bill shall contain only appropriations for the ordinary expenses of the legislative, executive, and judicial branches, for interest on the public debt, and for public schools. Every other appropriation shall be made by a separate bill, containing but one subject.

(5) No appropriation shall be made for religious, charitable, industrial, educational, or benevolent purposes to any private individual, private association, or private corporation not under control of the state.

(6) A law may be challenged on the ground of noncompliance with this section only within two years after its effective date.

Section 12. Local and special legislation. The legislature shall not pass a special or local act when a general act is, or can be made, applicable.

Section 13. Impeachment. (1) The governor, executive officers, heads of state departments, judicial officers, and such other officers as may be provided by law are subject to impeachment, and upon conviction shall be removed from office. Other proceedings for removal from public office for cause may be provided by law.

(2) The legislature shall provide for the manner, procedure, and causes for impeachment and may select the senate as tribunal.

(3) Impeachment shall be brought only by a two-thirds vote of the house. The tribunal hearing the charges shall convict only by a vote of two-thirds or more of its members.

(4) Conviction shall extend only to removal from office, but the party, whether convicted or acquitted, shall also be liable to prosecution according to law.

Section 14. Districting and apportionment. (1) The state shall be divided into as many districts as there are members of the house, and each district shall elect one representative. Each senate district shall be composed of two adjoining house districts, and shall elect one senator. Each district shall consist of compact and contiguous territory. All districts shall be as nearly equal in population as is practicable.

(2) In the legislative session following ratification of this constitution and thereafter in each session preceding each federal population census, a commission of five citizens, none of whom may be public officials, shall be selected to prepare a plan for redistricting and reapportioning the state into legislative districts and a plan for redistricting the state into congressional districts. The majority and minority leaders of each house shall each designate one commissioner. Within 20 days after their designation, the four commissioners shall select the fifth member, who shall serve as chairman of the commission. If the four members fail to select the fifth member within the time prescribed, a majority of the supreme court shall select him.

(3) Within 90 days after the official final decennial census figures are available, the commission shall file its final plan for congressional districts with the secretary of state and it shall become law.

(4) The commission shall submit its plan for legislative districts to the legislature at the first regular session after its appointment or after the census figures are available. Within 30 days after submission, the legislature shall return the plan to the commission with its recommendations. Within 30 days thereafter, the commission shall file its final plan for legislative districts with the secretary of state and it shall become law.

(5) Upon filing both plans, the commission is then dissolved.

ARTICLE VI

THE EXECUTIVE

Section 1. Officers. (1) The executive branch includes a governor, lieutenant governor, secretary of state, attorney general, superintendent of public instruction, and auditor.

(2) Each holds office for a term of four years which begins on the first Monday of January next succeeding election, and until a successor is elected and qualified.

(3) Each shall reside at the seat of government, there keep the public records of his office, and perform such other duties as are provided in this constitution and by law.

Section 2. Election. (1) The governor, lieutenant governor, secretary of state, attorney general, superintendent of public instruction, and auditor shall be elected by the qualified electors at a general election provided by law.

(2) Each candidate for governor shall file jointly with a candidate for lieutenant governor in primary elections, or so otherwise comply with nomination procedures provided by law that the offices of governor and lieutenant governor are voted upon together in primary and general elections.

Section 3. Qualifications. (1) No person shall be eligible to the office of governor, lieutenant governor, secretary of state, attorney general, superintendent of public instruction, or auditor unless he is 25 years of age or older at the time of his election. In addition, each shall be a citizen of the United States who has resided within the state two years next preceding his election.

(2) Any person with the foregoing qualifications is eligible to the office of attorney general if an attorney in good standing admitted to practice law in Montana who has engaged in the active practice thereof for at least five years before election.

(3) The superintendent of public instruction shall have such educational qualifications as are provided by law.

Section 4. Duties. (1) The executive power is vested in the governor who shall see that the laws are faithfully executed. He shall have such other duties as are provided in this constitution and by law.

(2) The lieutenant governor shall perform the duties provided by law and those delegated to him by the governor. No power specifically vested in the governor by this constitution may be delegated to the lieutenant governor.

(3) The secretary of state shall maintain official records of the executive branch and of the acts of the legislature, as provided by law. He shall keep the great seal of the state of Montana and perform any other duties provided by law.

(4) The attorney general is the legal officer of the state and shall have the duties and powers provided by law.

(5) The superintendent of public instruction and the auditor shall have such duties as are provided by law.

Section 5. Compensation. (1) Officers of the executive branch shall receive salaries provided by law.

(2) During his term, no elected officer of the executive branch may hold another public office or receive compensation for services from any other governmental agency. He may be a candidate for any public office during his term.

Section 6. Vacancy in office. (1) If the office of lieutenant governor becomes vacant by his succession to the office of governor, or by his death, resignation, or disability as determined by law, the governor shall appoint a qualified person to serve in that office for the remainder of the term. If both the elected governor and the elected lieutenant governor become unable to serve in the office of governor, succession to the respective offices shall be as provided by law for the period until the next general election. Then, a governor and lieutenant governor shall be elected to fill the remainder of the original term.

(2) If the office of secretary of state, attorney general, auditor, or superintendent of public instruction becomes vacant by death, resignation, or disability as determined by law, the governor shall appoint a qualified person to serve in that office until the next general election and until a successor is elected and qualified. The person elected to fill a vacancy shall hold the office until the expiration of the term for which his predecessor was elected.

Section 7. 20 departments. All executive and administrative offices, boards, bureaus, commissions, agencies and instrumentalities of the executive branch (except for the office of governor, lieutenant governor, secretary of state, attorney general, superintendent of public instruction, and auditor) and their respective functions, powers, and duties, shall be allocated by law among not more than 20 principal departments so as to provide an orderly arrangement in the administrative organization of state government. Temporary commissions may be established by law and need not be allocated within a department.

Section 8. Appointing power. (1) The departments provided for in section 7 shall be under the supervision of the governor. Except as otherwise provided in this constitution or by law, each department shall be headed by a single executive appointed by the governor subject to confirmation by the senate to hold office until the end of the governor's term unless sooner removed by the governor.

(2) The governor shall appoint, subject to confirmation by the senate, all officers provided for in this constitution or by law whose appointment or election is not otherwise provided for. They shall hold office until the end of the governor's term unless sooner removed by the governor.

(3) If a vacancy occurs in any such office when the legislature is not in session, the governor shall appoint a qualified person to discharge the duties thereof until the office is filled by appointment and confirmation.

(4) A person not confirmed by the senate for an office shall not, except at its request, be nominated again for that office at the same session, or be appointed to that office when the legislature is not in session.

Section 9. Budget and messages. The governor shall at the beginning of each legislative session, and may at other times, give the legislature information and recommend measures he considers necessary. The governor shall submit to the legislature at a time fixed by law, a budget for the ensuing fiscal period setting forth in detail for all operating funds the proposed expenditures and estimated revenue of the state.

Section 10. Veto power. (1) Each bill passed by the legislature, except bills proposing amendments to the Montana constitution, bills ratifying proposed amendments to the United States constitution, resolutions, and initiative and referendum measures, shall be submitted to the governor for his signature. If he does not sign or veto the bill within 10 days after its delivery to him, it shall become law. The governor shall return a vetoed bill to the legislature with a statement of his reasons therefor.

(2) The governor may return any bill to the legislature with his recommendation for amendment. If the legislature passes the bill in accordance with the governor's recommendation, it shall again return the bill to the governor for his reconsideration. The governor shall not return a bill for amendment a second time.

(3) If after receipt of a veto message, two-thirds of the members of each house present approve the bill, it shall become law.

(4) (a) If the legislature is not in session when the governor vetoes a bill approved by two-thirds of the members present, he shall return the bill with his reasons therefor to the secretary of state. The secretary of state shall poll the members of the legislature by mail and shall send each member a copy of the governor's veto message. If two-thirds or more of the members of each house vote to override the veto, the bill shall become law.

(b) The legislature may reconvene as provided by law to reconsider any bill vetoed by the governor when the legislature is not in session.

(5) The governor may veto items in appropriation bills, and in such instances the procedure shall be the same as upon veto of an entire bill.

Section 11. Special session. Whenever the governor considers it in the public interest, he may convene the legislature.

Section 12. Pardons. The governor may grant reprieves, commutations and pardons, restore citizenship, and suspend and remit fines and forfeitures subject to procedures provided by law.

Section 13. Militia. (1) The governor is commander-in-chief of the militia forces of the state, except when they are in the actual service of the United States. He may call out any part or all of the forces to aid in the execution of the laws, suppress insurrection, repel invasion, or protect life and property in natural disasters.

(2) The militia forces shall consist of all able-bodied citizens of the state except those exempted by law.

Section 14. Succession. (1) If the governor-elect is disqualified or dies, the lieutenant governor-elect upon qualifying for the office shall become governor for the full term. If the governor-elect fails to assume office for any other reason, the lieutenant governor-elect upon qualifying as such shall serve as acting governor until the governor-elect is able to assume office, or until the office becomes vacant.

(2) The lieutenant governor shall serve as acting governor when so requested in writing by the governor. After the governor has been absent from the state for more than 45 consecutive days, the lieutenant governor shall serve as acting governor.

(3) He shall serve as acting governor when the governor is so disabled as to be unable to communicate to the lieutenant governor the fact of his inability to perform the duties of his office. The lieutenant governor shall continue to serve as acting governor until the governor is able to resume the duties of his office.

(4) Whenever, at any other time, the lieutenant governor and attorney general transmit to the legislature their written declaration that the governor is unable to discharge the powers and duties of his office, the legislature shall convene to determine whether he is able to do so.

(5) If the legislature, within 21 days after convening, determines by two-thirds vote of its members that the governor is unable to discharge the powers and duties of his office, the lieutenant governor shall serve as acting governor. Thereafter, when the governor transmits to the legislature his written declaration that no inability exists, he shall resume

the powers and duties of his office within 15 days, unless the legislature determines otherwise by two-thirds vote of its members. If the legislature so determines, the lieutenant governor shall continue to serve as acting governor.

(6) If the office of governor becomes vacant by reason of death, resignation, or disqualification, the lieutenant governor shall become governor for the remainder of the term, except as provided in this constitution.

(7) Additional succession to fill vacancies shall be provided by law.

(8) When there is a vacancy in the office of governor, the successor shall be the governor. The acting governor shall have the powers and duties of the office of governor only for the period during which he serves.

Section 15. Information for governor. (1) The governor may require information in writing, under oath when required, from the officers of the executive branch upon any subject relating to the duties of their respective offices.

(2) He may require information in writing, under oath, from all officers and managers of state institutions.

(3) He may appoint a committee to investigate and report to him upon the condition of any executive office or state institution.

ARTICLE VII THE JUDICIARY

Section 1. Judicial power. The judicial power of the state is vested in one supreme court, district courts, justice courts, and such other courts as may be provided by law.

Section 2. Supreme court jurisdiction. (1) The supreme court has appellate jurisdiction and may issue, hear, and determine writs appropriate thereto. It has original jurisdiction to issue, hear, and determine writs of habeas corpus and such other writs as may be provided by law.

(2) It has general supervisory control over all other courts.

(3) It may make rules governing appellate procedure, practice and procedure for all other courts, admission to the bar and the conduct of its members. Rules of procedure shall be subject to disapproval by the legislature in either of the two sessions following promulgation.

(4) Supreme court process shall extend to all parts of the state.

Section 3. Supreme court organization. (1) The supreme court consists of one chief justice and four justices, but the legislature may increase the number of justices from four to six. A majority shall join in and pronounce decisions, which must be in writing.

(2) A district judge shall be substituted for the chief justice or a justice in the event of disqualification or disability, and the opinion of the district judge sitting with the supreme court shall have the same effect as an opinion of a justice.

Section 4. District court jurisdiction. (1) The district court has original jurisdiction in all criminal cases amounting to felony and all civil matters and cases at law and in equity. It may issue all writs appropriate to its jurisdiction. It shall have the power of naturalization and such additional jurisdiction as may be delegated by the laws of the United States or the state of Montana. Its process shall extend to all parts of the state.

(2) The district court shall hear appeals from inferior courts as trials anew unless otherwise provided by law. The legislature may provide for direct review by the district court of decisions of administrative agencies.

(3) Other courts may have jurisdiction of criminal cases not amounting to felony and such jurisdiction concurrent with that of the district court as may be provided by law.

Section 5. Justices of the peace. (1) There shall be elected in each county at least one justice of the peace with qualifications, training, and monthly compensation provided by law. There shall be provided such facilities that they may perform their duties in dignified surroundings.

(2) Justice courts shall have such original jurisdiction as may be provided by law. They shall not have trial jurisdiction in any criminal case designated a felony except as examining courts.

(3) The legislature may provide for additional justices of the peace in each county.

Section 6. Judicial districts. (1) The legislature shall divide the state into judicial districts and provide for the number of judges in each district. Each district shall be formed of compact territory and be bounded by county lines.

(2) The legislature may change the number and boundaries of judicial districts and the number of judges in each district, but no change in boundaries or the number of districts or judges therein shall work a removal of any judge from office during the term for which he was elected or appointed.

(3) The chief justice may, upon request of the district judge, assign district judges and other judges for temporary service from one district to another, and from one county to another.

Section 7. Terms and pay. (1) All justices and judges shall be paid as provided by law, but salaries shall not be diminished during terms of office.

(2) Terms of office shall be eight years for supreme court justices, six years for district court judges, four years for justices of the peace, and as provided by law for other judges.

Section 8. Selection. (1) Supreme court justices and district court judges shall be elected by the qualified electors as provided by law.

(2) For any vacancy in the office of supreme court justice or district court judge, the governor shall appoint a replacement from nominees selected in the manner provided by law. If the governor fails to appoint within thirty days after receipt of nominees, the chief justice or acting chief justice shall make the appointment from the same nominees within thirty days of the governor's failure to appoint. Appointments made under this subsection shall be subject to confirmation by the senate, as provided by law. If the appointee is not confirmed, the office shall be vacant and a replacement shall be made under the procedures provided for in this section. The appointee shall serve until the election for the office as provided by law and until a successor is elected and qualified. The person elected or retained at the election shall serve until the expiration of the term for which his predecessor was elected. No appointee, whether confirmed or unconfirmed, shall serve past the term of his predecessor without standing for election.

(3) If an incumbent files for election and there is no election contest for the office, the name of the incumbent shall nevertheless be placed on the general election ballot to allow the voters of the state or district to approve or reject him. If an incumbent is rejected, the vacancy in the office for which the election was held shall be filled as provided in subsection (2).

Section 9. Qualifications. (1) A citizen of the United States who has resided in the state two years immediately before taking office is eligible to the office of supreme court

justice or district court judge if admitted to the practice of law in Montana for at least five years prior to the date of appointment or election. Qualifications and methods of selection of judges of other courts shall be provided by law.

(2) No supreme court justice or district court judge shall solicit or receive compensation in any form whatever on account of his office, except salary and actual necessary travel expense.

(3) Except as otherwise provided in this constitution, no supreme court justice or district court judge shall practice law during his term of office, engage in any other employment for which salary or fee is paid, or hold office in a political party.

(4) Supreme court justices shall reside within the state. During his term of office, a district court judge shall reside in the district and a justice of the peace shall reside in the county in which he is elected or appointed. The residency requirement for every other judge must be provided by law.

Section 10. Forfeiture of judicial position. Any holder of a judicial position forfeits that position by either filing for an elective public office other than a judicial position or absenting himself from the state for more than 60 consecutive days.

Section 11. Removal and discipline. (1) The legislature shall create a judicial standards commission consisting of five persons and provide for the appointment thereto of two district judges, one attorney, and two citizens who are neither judges nor attorneys.

(2) The commission shall investigate complaints, and make rules implementing this section. It may subpoena witnesses and documents.

(3) Upon recommendation of the commission, the supreme court may:

(a) Retire any justice or judge for disability that seriously interferes with the performance of his duties and is or may become permanent; or

(b) Censure, suspend, or remove any justice or judge for willful misconduct in office, willful and persistent failure to perform his duties, violation of canons of judicial ethics adopted by the supreme court of the state of Montana, or habitual intemperance.

(4) The proceedings of the commission are confidential except as provided by statute.

ARTICLE VIII

REVENUE AND FINANCE

Section 1. Tax purposes. Taxes shall be levied by general laws for public purposes.

Section 2. Tax power inalienable. The power to tax shall never be surrendered, suspended, or contracted away.

Section 3. Property tax administration. The state shall appraise, assess, and equalize the valuation of all property which is to be taxed in the manner provided by law.

Section 4. Equal valuation. All taxing jurisdictions shall use the assessed valuation of property established by the state.

Section 5. Property tax exemptions. (1) The legislature may exempt from taxation:

(a) Property of the United States, the state, counties, cities, towns, school districts, municipal corporations, and public libraries, but any private interest in such property may be taxed separately.

(b) Institutions of purely public charity, hospitals and places of burial not used or held for private or corporate profit, places for actual religious worship, and property used exclusively for educational purposes.

(c) Any other classes of property.

(2) The legislature may authorize creation of special improvement districts for capital improvements and the maintenance thereof. It may authorize the assessment of charges for such improvements and maintenance against tax exempt property directly benefited thereby.

Section 6. Highway revenue non-diversion. (1) Revenue from gross vehicle weight fees and excise and license taxes (except general sales and use taxes) on gasoline, fuel, and other energy sources used to propel vehicles on public highways shall be used as authorized by the legislature, after deduction of statutory refunds and adjustments, solely for:

(a) Payment of obligations incurred for construction, reconstruction, repair, operation, and maintenance of public highways, streets, roads, and bridges.

(b) Payment of county, city, and town obligations on streets, roads, and bridges.

(c) Enforcement of highway safety, driver education, tourist promotion, and administrative collection costs.

(2) Such revenue may be appropriated for other purposes by a three-fifths vote of the members of each house of the legislature.

Section 7. Tax appeals. The legislature shall provide independent appeal procedures for taxpayer grievances about appraisals, assessments, equalization, and taxes. The legislature shall include a review procedure at the local government unit level.

Section 8. State debt. No state debt shall be created unless authorized by a two-thirds vote of the members of each house of the legislature or a majority of the electors voting thereon. No state debt shall be created to cover deficits incurred because appropriations exceeded anticipated revenue.

Section 9. Balanced budget. Appropriations by the legislature shall not exceed anticipated revenue.

Section 10. Local government debt. The legislature shall by law limit debts of counties, cities, towns, and all other local governmental entities.

Section 11. Use of loan proceeds. All money borrowed by or on behalf of the state or any county, city, town, or other local governmental entity shall be used only for purposes specified in the authorizing law.

Section 12. Strict accountability. The legislature shall by law insure strict accountability of all revenue received and money spent by the state and counties, cities, towns, and all other local governmental entities.

Section 13. Investment of public funds and public retirement system and state compensation insurance fund assets. (1) The legislature shall provide for a unified investment program for public funds and public retirement system and state compensation insurance fund assets and provide rules therefor, including supervision of investment of surplus funds of all counties, cities, towns, and other local governmental entities. Each fund forming a part of the unified investment program shall be separately identified. Except as provided in subsections (3) and (4), no public funds shall be invested in private corporate capital stock. The investment program shall be audited at least annually and a report thereof submitted to the governor and legislature.

(2) The public school fund and the permanent funds of the Montana university system and all other state institutions of learning shall be safely and conservatively invested in:

(a) Public securities of the state, its subdivisions, local government units, and districts within the state, or

(b) Bonds of the United States or other securities fully guaranteed as to principal and interest by the United States, or

(c) Such other safe investments bearing a fixed rate of interest as may be provided by law.

(3) Investment of public retirement system assets shall be managed in a fiduciary capacity in the same manner that a prudent expert acting in a fiduciary capacity and familiar with the circumstances would use in the conduct of an enterprise of a similar character with similar aims. Public retirement system assets may be invested in private corporate capital stock.

(4) Investment of state compensation insurance fund assets shall be managed in a fiduciary capacity in the same manner that a prudent expert acting in a fiduciary capacity and familiar with the circumstances would use in the conduct of a private insurance organization. State compensation insurance fund assets may be invested in private corporate capital stock. However, the stock investments shall not exceed 25 percent of the book value of the state compensation insurance fund's total invested assets.

Section 14. Prohibited payments. Except for interest on the public debt, no money shall be paid out of the treasury unless upon an appropriation made by law and a warrant drawn by the proper officer in pursuance thereof.

Section 15. Public retirement system assets. (1) Public retirement systems shall be funded on an actuarially sound basis. Public retirement system assets, including income and actuarially required contributions, shall not be encumbered, diverted, reduced, or terminated and shall be held in trust to provide benefits to participants and their beneficiaries and to defray administrative expenses.

(2) The governing boards of public retirement systems shall administer the system, including actuarial determinations, as fiduciaries of system participants and their beneficiaries.

Section 16. Limitation on sales tax or use tax rates. The rate of a general statewide sales tax or use tax may not exceed 4%.

Section 17. Prohibition on real property transfer taxes. The state or any local government unit may not impose any tax, including a sales tax, on the sale or transfer of real property.

ARTICLE IX

ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Section 1. Protection and improvement. (1) The state and each person shall maintain and improve a clean and healthful environment in Montana for present and future generations.

(2) The legislature shall provide for the administration and enforcement of this duty.

(3) The legislature shall provide adequate remedies for the protection of the environmental life support system from degradation and provide adequate remedies to prevent unreasonable depletion and degradation of natural resources.

Section 2. Reclamation. (1) All lands disturbed by the taking of natural resources shall be reclaimed. The legislature shall provide effective requirements and standards for the reclamation of lands disturbed.

(2) The legislature shall provide for a fund, to be known as the resource indemnity trust of the state of Montana, to be funded by such taxes on the extraction of natural resources as the legislature may from time to time impose for that purpose.

(3) The principal of the resource indemnity trust shall forever remain inviolate in an amount of one hundred million dollars (\$100,000,000), guaranteed by the state against loss or diversion.

Section 3. Water rights. (1) All existing rights to the use of any waters for any useful or beneficial purpose are hereby recognized and confirmed.

(2) The use of all water that is now or may hereafter be appropriated for sale, rent, distribution, or other beneficial use, the right of way over the lands of others for all ditches, drains, flumes, canals, and aqueducts necessarily used in connection therewith, and the sites for reservoirs necessary for collecting and storing water shall be held to be a public use.

(3) All surface, underground, flood, and atmospheric waters within the boundaries of the state are the property

of the state for the use of its people and are subject to appropriation for beneficial uses as provided by law.

(4) The legislature shall provide for the administration, control, and regulation of water rights and shall establish a system of centralized records, in addition to the present system of local records.

Section 4. Cultural resources. The legislature shall provide for the identification, acquisition, restoration, enhancement, preservation, and administration of scenic, historic, archeologic, scientific, cultural, and recreational areas, sites, records and objects, and for their use and enjoyment by the people.

Section 5. Severance tax on coal — trust fund. The legislature shall dedicate not less than one-fourth ($1/4$) of the coal severance tax to a trust fund, the interest and income from which may be appropriated. The principal of the trust shall forever remain inviolate unless appropriated by vote of three-fourths ($3/4$) of the members of each house of the legislature. After December 31, 1979, at least fifty percent (50%) of the severance tax shall be dedicated to the trust fund.

Section 6. Noxious weed management trust fund. (1) The legislature shall provide for a fund, to be known as the noxious weed management trust of the state of Montana, to be funded as provided by law.

(2) The principal of the noxious weed management trust fund shall forever remain inviolate in an amount of ten million dollars (\$10,000,000) unless appropriated by vote of three-fourths ($3/4$) of the members of each house of the legislature.

(3) The interest and income generated from the noxious weed management trust fund may be appropriated by a majority vote of each house of the legislature. Appropriations of the interest and income shall be used only to fund the noxious weed management program, as provided by law.

(4) The principal of the noxious weed management trust fund in excess of ten million dollars (\$10,000,000) may be appropriated by a majority vote of each house of the legislature. Appropriations of the principal in excess of ten million dollars (\$10,000,000) shall be used only to fund the noxious weed management program, as provided by law.

Section 7. Preservation of harvest heritage. The opportunity to harvest wild fish and wild game animals is a heritage that shall forever be preserved to the individual

citizens of the state and does not create a right to trespass on private property or diminution of other private rights.

ARTICLE X

EDUCATION AND PUBLIC LANDS

Section 1. Educational goals and duties. (1) It is the goal of the people to establish a system of education which will develop the full educational potential of each person. Equality of educational opportunity is guaranteed to each person of the state.

(2) The state recognizes the distinct and unique cultural heritage of the American Indians and is committed in its educational goals to the preservation of their cultural integrity.

(3) The legislature shall provide a basic system of free quality public elementary and secondary schools. The legislature may provide such other educational institutions, public libraries, and educational programs as it deems desirable. It shall fund and distribute in an equitable manner to the school districts the state's share of the cost of the basic elementary and secondary school system.

Section 2. Public school fund. The public school fund of the state shall consist of:

(1) Proceeds from the school lands which have been or may hereafter be granted by the United States,

(2) Lands granted in lieu thereof,

(3) Lands given or granted by any person or corporation under any law or grant of the United States,

(4) All other grants of land or money made from the United States for general educational purposes or without special purpose,

(5) All interests in estates that escheat to the state,

(6) All unclaimed shares and dividends of any corporation incorporated in the state,

(7) All other grants, gifts, devises or bequests made to the state for general educational purposes.

Section 3. Public school fund inviolate. The public school fund shall forever remain inviolate, guaranteed by the state against loss or diversion.

Section 4. Board of land commissioners. The governor, superintendent of public instruction, auditor, secretary of state, and attorney general constitute the board of land commissioners. It has the authority to direct, control, lease, exchange, and sell school lands and lands which have been or may be granted for the support and benefit of the various state educational institutions, under such regulations and restrictions as may be provided by law.

Section 5. Public school fund revenue. (1) Ninety-five percent of all the interest received on the public school fund and ninety-five percent of all rent received from the leasing of school lands and all other income from the public school fund shall be equitably apportioned annually to public elementary and secondary school districts as provided by law.

(2) The remaining five percent of all interest received on the public school fund, and the remaining five percent of all rent received from the leasing of school lands and all other income from the public school fund shall annually be added to the public school fund and become and forever remain an inseparable and inviolable part thereof.

Section 6. Aid prohibited to sectarian schools. (1) The legislature, counties, cities, towns, school districts, and public corporations shall not make any direct or indirect appropriation or payment from any public fund or monies, or any grant of lands or other property for any sectarian purpose or to aid any church, school, academy, seminary, college, university, or other literary or scientific institution, controlled in whole or in part by any church, sect, or denomination.

(2) This section shall not apply to funds from federal sources provided to the state for the express purpose of distribution to non-public education.

Section 7. Nondiscrimination in education. No religious or partisan test or qualification shall be required of any teacher or student as a condition of admission into any public educational institution. Attendance shall not be required at any religious service. No sectarian tenets shall be advocated in any public educational institution of the state. No person shall be refused admission to any public educational institution on account of sex, race, creed, religion, political beliefs, or national origin.

Section 8. School district trustees. The supervision and control of schools in each school district shall be vested in a board of trustees to be elected as provided by law.

Section 9. Boards of education. (1) There is a state board of education composed of the board of regents of higher education and the board of public education. It is responsible for long-range planning, and for coordinating and evaluating policies and programs for the state's educational systems. It shall submit unified budget requests. A tie vote at any meeting may be broken by the governor, who is an ex officio member of each component board.

(2) (a) The government and control of the Montana university system is vested in a board of regents of higher education which shall have full power, responsibility, and authority to supervise, coordinate, manage and control the Montana university system and shall supervise and coordinate other public educational institutions assigned by law.

(b) The board consists of seven members appointed by the governor, and confirmed by the senate, to overlapping terms, as provided by law. The governor and superintendent of public instruction are ex officio non-voting members of the board.

(c) The board shall appoint a commissioner of higher education and prescribe his term and duties.

(d) The funds and appropriations under the control of the board of regents are subject to the same audit provisions as are all other state funds.

(3) (a) There is a board of public education to exercise general supervision over the public school system and such other public educational institutions as may be assigned by law. Other duties of the board shall be provided by law.

(b) The board consists of seven members appointed by the governor, and confirmed by the senate, to overlapping terms as provided by law. The governor, commissioner of higher education and state superintendent of public instruction shall be ex officio non-voting members of the board.

Section 10. State university funds. The funds of the Montana university system and of all other state institutions of learning, from whatever source accruing, shall forever remain inviolate and sacred to the purpose for which they were dedicated. The various funds shall be respectively invested under such regulations as may be provided by law, and shall be guaranteed by the state against loss or diversion. The interest from such invested funds, together with the rent from leased lands or properties, shall be devoted to the maintenance and perpetuation of the respective institutions.

Section 11. Public land trust, disposition. (1) All lands of the state that have been or may be granted by congress, or acquired by gift or grant or devise from any person or corporation, shall be public lands of the state. They shall be held in trust for the people, to be disposed of as hereafter provided, for the respective purposes for which they have been or may be granted, donated or devised.

(2) No such land or any estate or interest therein shall ever be disposed of except in pursuance of general laws providing for such disposition, or until the full market value of the estate or interest disposed of, to be ascertained in such manner as may be provided by law, has been paid or safely secured to the state.

(3) No land which the state holds by grant from the United States which prescribes the manner of disposal and minimum price shall be disposed of except in the manner and for at least the price prescribed without the consent of the United States.

(4) All public land shall be classified by the board of land commissioners in a manner provided by law. Any public land may be exchanged for other land, public or private, which is equal in value and, as closely as possible, equal in area.

ARTICLE XI

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Section 1. Definition. The term "local government units" includes, but is not limited to, counties and incorporated cities and towns. Other local government units may be established by law.

Section 2. Counties. The counties of the state are those that exist on the date of ratification of this constitution. No county boundary may be changed or county seat transferred until approved by a majority of those voting on the question in each county affected.

Section 3. Forms of government. (1) The legislature shall provide methods for governing local government units and procedures for incorporating, classifying, merging, consolidating, and dissolving such units, and altering their boundaries. The legislature shall provide such optional or alternative forms of government that each unit or combination of units may adopt, amend, or abandon an optional or alternative form by a majority of those voting on the question.

(2) One optional form of county government includes, but is not limited to, the election of three county commissioners, a clerk and recorder, a clerk of district court, a county attorney, a sheriff, a treasurer, a surveyor, a county superintendent of schools, an assessor, a coroner, and a public administrator. The terms, qualifications, duties, and compensation of those offices shall be provided by law. The Board of county commissioners may consolidate two or more such offices. The Boards of two or more counties may provide for a joint office and for the election of one official to perform the duties of any such office in those counties.

Section 4. General powers. (1) A local government unit without self-government powers has the following general powers:

(a) An incorporated city or town has the powers of a municipal corporation and legislative, administrative, and other powers provided or implied by law.

(b) A county has legislative, administrative, and other powers provided or implied by law.

(c) Other local government units have powers provided by law.

(2) The powers of incorporated cities and towns and counties shall be liberally construed.

Section 5. Self-government charters. (1) The legislature shall provide procedures permitting a local government unit or combination of units to frame, adopt, amend, revise, or abandon a self-government charter with the approval of a majority of those voting on the question. The procedures shall not require approval of a charter by a legislative body.

(2) If the legislature does not provide such procedures by July 1, 1975, they may be established by election either:

(a) Initiated by petition in the local government unit or combination of units; or

(b) Called by the governing body of the local government unit or combination of units.

(3) Charter provisions establishing executive, legislative, and administrative structure and organization are superior to statutory provisions.

Section 6. Self-government powers. A local government unit adopting a self-government charter may exercise any power not prohibited by this constitution, law, or charter.

This grant of self-government powers may be extended to other local government units through optional forms of government provided for in section 3.

Section 7. Intergovernmental cooperation. (1) Unless prohibited by law or charter, a local government unit may

(a) cooperate in the exercise of any function, power, or responsibility with,

(b) share the services of any officer or facilities with,

(c) transfer or delegate any function, power, responsibility, or duty of any officer to one or more other local government units, school districts, the state, or the United States.

(2) The qualified electors of a local government unit may, by initiative or referendum, require it to do so.

Section 8. Initiative and referendum. The legislature shall extend the initiative and referendum powers reserved to the people by the constitution to the qualified electors of each local government unit.

Section 9. Voter review of local government. (1) The legislature shall, within four years of the ratification of this constitution, provide procedures requiring each local government unit or combination of units to review its structure and submit one alternative form of government to the qualified electors at the next general or special election.

(2) The legislature shall require an election in each local government to determine whether a local government will undertake a review procedure once every ten years after the first election. Approval by a majority of those voting in the decennial general election on the question of undertaking a local government review is necessary to mandate the election of a local government study commission. Study commission members shall be elected during any regularly scheduled election in local governments mandating their election.

ARTICLE XII

DEPARTMENTS AND INSTITUTIONS

Section 1. Agriculture. (1) The legislature shall provide for a Department of Agriculture and enact laws and provide appropriations to protect, enhance, and develop all agriculture.

(2) Special levies may be made on livestock and on agricultural commodities for disease control and

indemnification, predator control, and livestock and commodity inspection, protection, research, and promotion. Revenue derived shall be used solely for the purposes of the levies.

Section 2. Labor. (1) The legislature shall provide for a Department of Labor and Industry, headed by a Commissioner appointed by the governor and confirmed by the senate.

(2) A maximum period of 8 hours is a regular day's work in all industries and employment except agriculture and stock raising. The legislature may change this maximum period to promote the general welfare.

Section 3. Institutions and assistance. (1) The state shall establish and support institutions and facilities as the public good may require, including homes which may be necessary and desirable for the care of veterans.

(2) Persons committed to any such institutions shall retain all rights except those necessarily suspended as a condition of commitment. Suspended rights are restored upon termination of the state's responsibility.

(3) The legislature may provide such economic assistance and social and rehabilitative services for those who, by reason of age, infirmities, or misfortune are determined by the legislature to be in need.

(4) The legislature may set eligibility criteria for programs and services, as well as for the duration and level of benefits and services.

Section 4. Montana tobacco settlement trust fund. (1) The legislature shall dedicate not less than two-fifths of any tobacco settlement proceeds received on or after January 1, 2001, to a trust fund, nine-tenths of the interest and income of which may be appropriated. One-tenth of the interest and income derived from the trust fund on or after January 1, 2001, shall be deposited in the trust fund. The principal of the trust fund and one-tenth of the interest and income deposited in the trust fund shall remain forever inviolate unless appropriated by a vote of two-thirds of the members of each house of the legislature.

(2) Appropriations of the interest, income, or principal from the trust fund shall be used only for tobacco disease prevention programs and state programs providing benefits, services, or coverage that are related to the health care needs of the people of Montana and may not be used for other purposes.

(3) Appropriations of the interest, income, or principal from the trust fund shall not be used to replace state or federal money used to fund tobacco disease prevention programs and state programs that existed on December 31, 1999, providing benefits, services, or coverage of the health care needs of the people of Montana.

ARTICLE XIII

GENERAL PROVISIONS

Section 1. Nonmunicipal corporations. (1) Corporate charters shall be granted, modified, or dissolved only pursuant to general law.

(2) The legislature shall provide protection and education for the people against harmful and unfair practices by either foreign or domestic corporations, individuals, or associations.

(3) The legislature shall pass no law retrospective in its operations which imposes on the people a new liability in respect to transactions or considerations already passed.

Section 2. Consumer counsel. The legislature shall provide for an office of consumer counsel which shall have the duty of representing consumer interests in hearings before the public service commission or any other successor agency. The legislature shall provide for the funding of the office of consumer counsel by a special tax on the net income or gross revenues of regulated companies.

Section 3. Repealed. Sec. 1, Const. Amend. No. 16, approved Nov. 4, 1986.

Section 4. Code of ethics. The legislature shall provide a code of ethics prohibiting conflict between public duty and private interest for members of the legislature and all state and local officers and employees.

Section 5. Exemption laws. The legislature shall enact liberal homestead and exemption laws.

Section 6. Perpetuities. No perpetuities shall be allowed except for charitable purposes.

Section 7. Marriage. Only a marriage between one man and one woman shall be valid or recognized as a marriage in this state.

ARTICLE XIV

CONSTITUTIONAL REVISION

Section 1. Constitutional convention. The legislature, by an affirmative vote of two-thirds of all the members, whether one or more bodies, may at any time submit to the qualified electors the question of whether there shall be an unlimited convention to revise, alter, or amend this constitution.

Section 2. Initiative for constitutional convention. (1) The people may by initiative petition direct the secretary of state to submit to the qualified electors the question of whether there shall be an unlimited convention to revise, alter, or amend this constitution. The petition shall be signed by at least ten percent of the qualified electors of the state. That number shall include at least ten percent of the qualified electors in each of two-fifths of the legislative districts.

(2) The secretary of state shall certify the filing of the petition in his office and cause the question to be submitted at the next general election.

Section 3. Periodic submission. If the question of holding a convention is not otherwise submitted during any period of 20 years, it shall be submitted as provided by law at the general election in the twentieth year following the last submission.

Section 4. Call of convention. If a majority of those voting on the question answer in the affirmative, the legislature shall provide for the calling thereof at its next session. The number of delegates to the convention shall be the same as that of the larger body of the legislature. The qualifications of delegates shall be the same as the highest qualifications required for election to the legislature. The legislature shall determine whether the delegates may be nominated on a partisan or a non-partisan basis. They shall be elected at the same places and in the same districts as are the members of the legislative body determining the number of delegates.

Section 5. Convention expenses. The legislature shall, in the act calling the convention, designate the day, hour, and place of its meeting, and fix and provide for the pay of its members and officers and the necessary expenses of the convention.

Section 6. Oath, vacancies. Before proceeding, the delegates shall take the oath provided in this constitution. Vacancies occurring shall be filled in the manner provided for filling vacancies in the legislature if not otherwise provided by law.

Section 7. Convention duties. The convention shall meet after the election of the delegates and prepare such revisions, alterations, or amendments to the constitution as may be deemed necessary. They shall be submitted to the qualified electors for ratification or rejection as a whole or in separate articles or amendments as determined by the convention at an election appointed by the convention for that purpose not less than two months after adjournment. Unless so submitted and approved by a majority of the electors voting thereon, no such revision, alteration, or amendment shall take effect.

Section 8. Amendment by legislative referendum. Amendments to this constitution may be proposed by any member of the legislature. If adopted by an affirmative roll call vote of two-thirds of all the members thereof, whether one or more bodies, the proposed amendment shall be submitted to the qualified electors at the next general election. If approved by a majority of the electors voting thereon, the amendment shall become a part of this constitution on the first day of July after certification of the election returns unless the amendment provides otherwise.

Section 9. Amendment by initiative. (1) The people may also propose constitutional amendments by initiative. Petitions including the full text of the proposed amendment shall be signed by at least ten percent of the qualified electors of the state. That number shall include at least ten percent of the qualified electors in each of two-fifths of the legislative districts.

(2) The petitions shall be filed with the secretary of state. If the petitions are found to have been signed by the required number of electors, the secretary of state shall cause the amendment to be published as provided by law twice each month for two months previous to the next regular state-wide election.

(3) At that election, the proposed amendment shall be submitted to the qualified electors for approval or rejection. If approved by a majority voting thereon, it shall become a part of the constitution effective the first day of July following its approval, unless the amendment provides otherwise.

Section 10. Petition signers. The number of qualified electors required for the filing of any petition provided for in this Article shall be determined by the number of votes cast for the office of governor in the preceding general election.

Section 11. Submission. If more than one amendment is submitted at the same election, each shall be so prepared and distinguished that it can be voted upon separately.

Leo Graybill, Jr., President	George Harper
Jean M. Bowman, Secretary	Daniel W. Harrington
Magnus Aasheim	George B. Heliker
John H. Anderson, Jr.	David L. Holland
Oscar L. Anderson	Arnold W. Jacobsen
Harold Arbanas	George H. James
Franklin Arness	Torrey B. Johnson
Cedor B. Aronow	Thomas F. Joyce
William H. Artz	A. W. Kamhoot
Thomas M. Ask	Robert Lee Kelleher
Betty Babcock	John H. Leuthold
Lloyd Barnard	Jerome T. Loendorf
Grace C. Bates	Peter "Pete" Lorello
Don E. Belcher	Joseph H. McCarvel
Ben E. Berg, Jr.	Russell C. McDonough
E. M. Berthelson	Mike McKeon
Chet Blaylock	Charles B. McNeil
Virginia H. Blend	Charles H. Mahoney
Geoffrey L. Brazier	Rachell K. Mansfield
Bruce M. Brown	Fred J. Martin
Daphne Bugbee	J. Mason Melvin
William A. Burkhardt	Lyle R. Monroe
Marjorie Cain	Marshall Murray
Bob Campbell	Robert B. Noble
Jerome J. Cate	Richard A. Nutting
Richard J. Champoux	Mrs. Thomas Payne
Lyman W. Choate	Catherine Pemberton
Max Conover	Donald Rebal
C. Louise Cross	Arlyne E. Reichert
Wade J. Dahood	Mrs. Mae Nan Robinson
Carl M. Davis	Richard B. Roeder
Douglas Delaney	George W. Rollins
Maurice Driscoll	Miles Romney
Dave Drum	Sterling Rygg
Dorothy Eck	Don Scanlin
Marian S. Erdmann	John M. Schiltz
Leslie Eskildsen	Henry Siderius
Mark Etchart	Clark E. Simon
James R. Felt	Carman M. Skari
Donald R. Foster	M. Lynn Sparks
Noel D. Furlong	Lucile Speer
J. C. Garlington	R. J. Studer, Sr.
E. S. Gysler	Mrs. John Justin (Veronica) Sullivan
Otto T. Habedank	William H. Swanberg
Rod Hanson	John H. Toole
R. S. Hanson	Mrs. Edith M. Van Buskirk
Gene Harbaugh	Robert Vermillion
Paul K. Harlow	

Roger A. Wagner
Jack K. Ward
Margaret S. Warden

Archie O. Wilson
Robert F. Woodmansey

Done in open convention at the city of Helena, in the state of Montana, this twenty-second day of March, in the year of our Lord one thousand nine hundred and seventy-two.

TRANSITION SCHEDULE

Transition Schedule. The following provisions shall remain part of this Constitution until their terms have been executed. Once each year the attorney general shall review the following provisions and certify to the secretary of state which, if any, have been executed. Any provisions so certified shall thereafter be removed from this Schedule and no longer published as part of this Constitution.

Section 1. Accelerated effective date. Executed (certified by letter, December 4, 1974).

Section 2. Delayed effective date. Executed (certified by letter, December 4, 1974).

Section 3. Prospective operation of declaration of rights. Any rights, procedural or substantive, created for the first time by Article II shall be prospective and not retroactive.

Section 4. Terms of judiciary. Executed (certified by letter, December 20, 1978).

Section 5. Terms of legislators. Executed (certified by letter, February 22, 1977).

Section 6. General transition. (1) The rights and duties of all public bodies shall remain as if this Constitution had not been adopted with the exception of such changes as are contained in this Constitution. All laws, ordinances, regulations, and rules of court not contrary to, or inconsistent with, the provisions of this Constitution shall remain in force, until they shall expire by their own limitation or shall be altered or repealed pursuant to this Constitution.

(2) The validity of all public and private bonds, debts, and contracts, and of all suits, actions, and rights of action, shall continue as if no change had taken place.

(3) Executed (certified by letter, February 22, 1977).

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STATE OF MONTANA**

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**DECLARATION OF
INDEPENDENCE**

Note: *The following text is a transcription of the Declaration of Independence in its original form.* This material was copied from the National Archives website (www.archives.gov).

IN CONGRESS, July 4, 1776.

The unanimous Declaration of the thirteen united States of America,

When in the Course of human events, it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another, and to assume among the powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which the Laws of Nature and of Nature's God entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation.

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.—That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed, —That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness. Prudence, indeed, will dictate that Governments long established should not be changed for light and transient causes; and accordingly all experience hath shewn, that mankind are more disposed to suffer, while evils are sufferable, than to right themselves by abolishing the forms to which they are accustomed. But when a long train of abuses and usurpations, pursuing invariably the same Object evinces a design to reduce them under absolute Despotism, it is their right, it is their duty, to throw off such Government, and to provide new Guards for their future security.—Such has been the patient sufferance of these Colonies; and such is now the necessity which constrains them to alter their former Systems of Government. The history of the present King of Great Britain is a history of repeated injuries and usurpations, all having in direct object the establishment of an absolute Tyranny over these States. To prove this, let Facts be submitted to a candid world.

He has refused his Assent to Laws, the most wholesome and necessary for the public good.

He has forbidden his Governors to pass Laws of immediate and pressing importance, unless suspended in their operation till his Assent should be obtained; and when so suspended, he has utterly neglected to attend to them.

He has refused to pass other Laws for the accommodation of large districts of people, unless those people would relinquish the right of Representation in the Legislature, a right inestimable to them and formidable to tyrants only.

He has called together legislative bodies at places unusual, uncomfortable, and distant from the depository of their public Records, for the sole purpose of fatiguing them into compliance with his measures.

He has dissolved Representative Houses repeatedly, for opposing with manly firmness his invasions on the rights of the people.

He has refused for a long time, after such dissolutions, to cause others to be elected; whereby the Legislative powers, incapable of Annihilation, have returned to the People at large for their exercise; the State remaining in the mean time exposed to all the dangers of invasion from without, and convulsions within.

He has endeavoured to prevent the population of these States; for that purpose obstructing the Laws for Naturalization of Foreigners; refusing to pass others to encourage their migrations hither, and raising the conditions of new Appropriations of Lands.

He has obstructed the Administration of Justice, by refusing his Assent to Laws for establishing Judiciary powers.

He has made Judges dependent on his Will alone, for the tenure of their offices, and the amount and payment of their salaries.

He has erected a multitude of New Offices, and sent hither swarms of Officers to harrass our people, and eat out their substance.

He has kept among us, in times of peace, Standing Armies without the Consent of our legislatures.

He has affected to render the Military independent of and superior to the Civil power.

He has combined with others to subject us to a jurisdiction foreign to our constitution, and unacknowledged by our laws; giving his Assent to their Acts of pretended Legislation:

For Quartering large bodies of armed troops among us:

For protecting them, by a mock Trial, from punishment for any Murders which they should commit on the Inhabitants of these States:

For cutting off our Trade with all parts of the world:

For imposing Taxes on us without our Consent:

For depriving us in many cases, of the benefits of Trial by Jury:

For transporting us beyond Seas to be tried for pretended offences

For abolishing the free System of English Laws in a neighbouring Province, establishing therein an Arbitrary government, and enlarging its Boundaries so as to render it at once an example and fit instrument for introducing the same absolute rule into these Colonies:

For taking away our Charters, abolishing our most valuable Laws, and altering fundamentally the Forms of our Governments:

For suspending our own Legislatures, and declaring themselves invested with power to legislate for us in all cases whatsoever.

He has abdicated Government here, by declaring us out of his Protection and waging War against us.

He has plundered our seas, ravaged our Coasts, burnt our towns, and destroyed the lives of our people.

He is at this time transporting large Armies of foreign Mercenaries to compleat the works of death, desolation and tyranny, already begun with circumstances of Cruelty & perfidy scarcely paralleled in the most barbarous ages, and totally unworthy the Head of a civilized nation.

He has constrained our fellow Citizens taken Captive on the high Seas to bear Arms against their Country, to become the executioners of their friends and Brethren, or to fall themselves by their Hands.

He has excited domestic insurrections amongst us, and has endeavoured to bring on the inhabitants of our frontiers, the merciless Indian Savages, whose known rule of warfare, is an undistinguished destruction of all ages, sexes and conditions.

In every stage of these Oppressions We have Petitioned for Redress in the most humble terms: Our repeated Petitions have been answered only by repeated injury. A Prince whose character is thus marked by every act which may define a Tyrant, is unfit to be the ruler of a free people.

Nor have We been wanting in attentions to our Brittish brethren. We have warned them from time to time of attempts by their legislature to extend an unwarrantable jurisdiction over us. We have reminded them of the circumstances of our emigration and settlement here. We have appealed to their native justice and magnanimity, and we have conjured them by the ties of our common kindred to disavow these usurpations, which, would inevitably interrupt our connections and correspondence. They too have been deaf to the voice of justice and of consanguinity. We must, therefore, acquiesce in the necessity, which denounces our Separation, and hold them, as we hold the rest of mankind, Enemies in War, in Peace Friends.

We, therefore, the Representatives of the united States of America, in General Congress, Assembled, appealing to the Supreme Judge of the world for the rectitude of our intentions, do, in the Name, and by Authority of the good People of these Colonies, solemnly publish and declare, That these United Colonies are, and of Right ought to be Free and Independent States; that they are Absolved from all Allegiance to the British Crown, and that all political connection between them and the State of Great Britain, is and ought to be totally dissolved; and that as Free and Independent States, they have full Power to levy War, conclude Peace, contract Alliances, establish Commerce, and to do all other Acts and Things which Independent States may of right do. And for the support of this Declaration, with a firm reliance on the protection of divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our Lives, our Fortunes and our sacred Honor.

Georgia:

Button Gwinnett
Lyman Hall
George Walton

North Carolina:

William Hooper
Joseph Hewes
John Penn

South Carolina:

Edward Rutledge
Thomas Heyward, Jr.
Thomas Lynch, Jr.
Arthur Middleton

Massachusetts:

John Hancock

Maryland:

Samuel Chase
William Paca
Thomas Stone
Charles Carroll of Carrollton

Virginia:

George Wythe
Richard Henry Lee
Thomas Jefferson
Benjamin Harrison
Thomas Nelson, Jr.
Francis Lightfoot Lee
Carter Braxton

Pennsylvania:

Robert Morris
Benjamin Rush
Benjamin Franklin
John Morton
George Clymer
James Smith
George Taylor
James Wilson
George Ross

Delaware:

Caesar Rodney
George Read
Thomas McKean

New York:

William Floyd
Philip Livingston
Francis Lewis
Lewis Morris

New Jersey:

Richard Stockton
John Witherspoon
Francis Hopkinson
John Hart
Abraham Clark

New Hampshire:

Josiah Bartlett
William Whipple

Massachusetts:

Samuel Adams
John Adams
Robert Treat Paine
Elbridge Gerry

Rhode Island:

Stephen Hopkins
William Ellery

Connecticut:

Roger Sherman
Samuel Huntington
William Williams
Oliver Wolcott

New Hampshire:

Matthew Thornton

**THE CONSTITUTION
OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

Note: *The following text is a transcription of the Constitution in its original form. Bracketed language has since been amended or superseded.*

This material was copied from the National Archives website (www.archives.gov).

We the People of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defence, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.

Article. I.

Section. 1.

All legislative Powers herein granted shall be vested in a Congress of the United States, which shall consist of a Senate and House of Representatives.

Section. 2.

The House of Representatives shall be composed of Members chosen every second Year by the People of the several States, and the Electors in each State shall have the Qualifications requisite for Electors of the most numerous Branch of the State Legislature.

No Person shall be a Representative who shall not have attained to the Age of twenty five Years, and been seven Years a Citizen of the United States, and who shall not, when elected, be an Inhabitant of that State in which he shall be chosen.

[Representatives and direct Taxes shall be apportioned among the several States which may be included within this Union, according to their respective Numbers, which shall be determined by adding to the whole Number of free Persons, including those bound to Service for a Term of Years, and excluding Indians not taxed, three fifths of all other Persons.] The actual Enumeration shall be made within three Years after the first Meeting of the Congress of the United States, and within every subsequent Term of ten Years, in such Manner as they shall by Law direct. The Number of Representatives shall not exceed one for every thirty Thousand, but each State shall have at Least one Representative; and until such enumeration shall be made, the State of New Hampshire shall be entitled to chuse three, Massachusetts eight, Rhode-Island and Providence Plantations one, Connecticut five, New-York six, New Jersey

four, Pennsylvania eight, Delaware one, Maryland six, Virginia ten, North Carolina five, South Carolina five, and Georgia three.

When vacancies happen in the Representation from any State, the Executive Authority thereof shall issue Writs of Election to fill such Vacancies.

The House of Representatives shall chuse their Speaker and other Officers; and shall have the sole Power of Impeachment.

Section. 3.

The Senate of the United States shall be composed of two Senators from each State, [chosen by the Legislature] thereof for six Years; and each Senator shall have one Vote.

Immediately after they shall be assembled in Consequence of the first Election, they shall be divided as equally as may be into three Classes. The Seats of the Senators of the first Class shall be vacated at the Expiration of the second Year, of the second Class at the Expiration of the fourth Year, and of the third Class at the Expiration of the sixth Year, so that one third may be chosen every second Year; [and if Vacancies happen by Resignation, or otherwise, during the Recess of the Legislature of any State, the Executive thereof may make temporary Appointments until the next Meeting of the Legislature, which shall then fill such Vacancies].

No Person shall be a Senator who shall not have attained to the Age of thirty Years, and been nine Years a Citizen of the United States, and who shall not, when elected, be an Inhabitant of that State for which he shall be chosen.

The Vice President of the United States shall be President of the Senate, but shall have no Vote, unless they be equally divided.

The Senate shall chuse their other Officers, and also a President pro tempore, in the Absence of the Vice President, or when he shall exercise the Office of President of the United States.

The Senate shall have the sole Power to try all Impeachments. When sitting for that Purpose, they shall be on Oath or Affirmation. When the President of the United States is tried, the Chief Justice shall preside: And no Person shall be convicted without the Concurrence of two thirds of the Members present.

Judgment in Cases of Impeachment shall not extend further than to removal from Office, and disqualification to hold and enjoy any Office of honor, Trust or Profit under the United States: but the Party convicted shall nevertheless be liable and subject to Indictment, Trial, Judgment and Punishment, according to Law.

Section. 4.

The Times, Places and Manner of holding Elections for Senators and Representatives, shall be prescribed in each State by the Legislature thereof; but the Congress may at any time by Law make or alter such Regulations, except as to the Places of chusing Senators.

The Congress shall assemble at least once in every Year, and such Meeting shall [be on the first Monday in December], unless they shall by Law appoint a different Day.

Section. 5.

Each House shall be the Judge of the Elections, Returns and Qualifications of its own Members, and a Majority of each shall constitute a Quorum to do Business; but a smaller Number may adjourn from day to day, and may be authorized to compel the Attendance of absent Members, in such Manner, and under such Penalties as each House may provide.

Each House may determine the Rules of its Proceedings, punish its Members for disorderly Behaviour, and, with the Concurrence of two thirds, expel a Member.

Each House shall keep a Journal of its Proceedings, and from time to time publish the same, excepting such Parts as may in their Judgment require Secrecy; and the Yeas and Nays of the Members of either House on any question shall, at the Desire of one fifth of those Present, be entered on the Journal.

Neither House, during the Session of Congress, shall, without the Consent of the other, adjourn for more than three days, nor to any other Place than that in which the two Houses shall be sitting.

Section. 6.

The Senators and Representatives shall receive a Compensation for their Services, to be ascertained by Law, and paid out of the Treasury of the United States. They shall in all Cases, except Treason, Felony and Breach of the Peace, be privileged from Arrest during their Attendance at the Session of their respective Houses, and in going to and returning from the same; and for any Speech or Debate in either House, they shall not be questioned in any other Place.

No Senator or Representative shall, during the Time for which he was elected, be appointed to any civil Office under the Authority of the United States, which shall have been created, or the Emoluments whereof shall have been encreased during such time; and no Person holding any Office under the United States, shall be a Member of either House during his Continuance in Office.

Section. 7.

All Bills for raising Revenue shall originate in the House of Representatives; but the Senate may propose or concur with Amendments as on other Bills.

Every Bill which shall have passed the House of Representatives and the Senate, shall, before it become a Law, be presented to the President of the United States: If he approve he shall sign it, but if not he shall return it, with his Objections to that House in which it shall have originated, who shall enter the Objections at large on their Journal, and proceed to reconsider it. If after such Reconsideration two thirds of that House shall agree to pass the Bill, it shall be sent, together with the Objections, to the other House, by which it shall likewise be reconsidered, and if approved by two thirds of that House, it shall become a Law. But in all such Cases the Votes of both Houses shall be determined by yeas and Nays, and the Names of the Persons voting for and against the Bill shall be entered on the Journal of each House respectively. If any Bill shall not be returned by the President within ten Days (Sundays excepted) after it shall have been presented to him, the Same shall be a Law, in like Manner as if he had signed it, unless the Congress by their Adjournment prevent its Return, in which Case it shall not be a Law.

Every Order, Resolution, or Vote to which the Concurrence of the Senate and House of Representatives may be necessary (except on a question of Adjournment) shall be presented to the President of the United States; and before the Same shall take Effect, shall be approved by him, or being disapproved by him, shall be repassed by two thirds of the Senate and House of Representatives, according to the Rules and Limitations prescribed in the Case of a Bill.

Section. 8.

The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States;

To borrow Money on the credit of the United States;

To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes;

To establish an uniform Rule of Naturalization, and uniform Laws on the subject of Bankruptcies throughout the United States;

To coin Money, regulate the Value thereof, and of foreign Coin, and fix the Standard of Weights and Measures;

To provide for the Punishment of counterfeiting the Securities and current Coin of the United States;

To establish Post Offices and post Roads;

To promote the Progress of Science and useful Arts, by securing for limited Times to Authors and Inventors the exclusive Right to their respective Writings and Discoveries;

To constitute Tribunals inferior to the supreme Court;

To define and punish Piracies and Felonies committed on the high Seas, and Offences against the Law of Nations;

To declare War, grant Letters of Marque and Reprisal, and make Rules concerning Captures on Land and Water;

To raise and support Armies, but no Appropriation of Money to that Use shall be for a longer Term than two Years;

To provide and maintain a Navy;

To make Rules for the Government and Regulation of the land and naval Forces;

To provide for calling forth the Militia to execute the Laws of the Union, suppress Insurrections and repel Invasions;

To provide for organizing, arming, and disciplining, the Militia, and for governing such Part of them as may be employed in the Service of the United States, reserving to the States respectively, the Appointment of the Officers, and the Authority of training the Militia according to the discipline prescribed by Congress;

To exercise exclusive Legislation in all Cases whatsoever, over such District (not exceeding ten Miles square) as may, by Cession of particular States, and the Acceptance of Congress, become the Seat of the Government of the United States, and to exercise like Authority over all Places purchased by the Consent of the Legislature of the State in which the Same shall be, for the Erection of Forts, Magazines, Arsenals, dock-Yards, and other needful Buildings;—And

To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

Section. 9.

The Migration or Importation of such Persons as any of the States now existing shall think proper to admit, shall not be prohibited by the Congress prior to the Year one thousand eight hundred and eight, but a Tax or duty may be imposed on such Importation, not exceeding ten dollars for each Person.

The Privilege of the Writ of Habeas Corpus shall not be suspended, unless when in Cases of Rebellion or Invasion the public Safety may require it.

No Bill of Attainder or ex post facto Law shall be passed.

No Capitation, or other direct, Tax shall be laid, [unless in Proportion to the Census or enumeration herein before directed to be taken].

No Tax or Duty shall be laid on Articles exported from any State.

No Preference shall be given by any Regulation of Commerce or Revenue to the Ports of one State over those of another; nor shall Vessels bound to, or from, one State, be obliged to enter, clear, or pay Duties in another.

No Money shall be drawn from the Treasury, but in Consequence of Appropriations made by Law; and a regular Statement and Account of the Receipts and Expenditures of all public Money shall be published from time to time.

No Title of Nobility shall be granted by the United States: And no Person holding any Office of Profit or Trust under them, shall, without the Consent of the Congress, accept of any present, Emolument, Office, or Title, of any kind whatever, from any King, Prince, or foreign State.

Section. 10.

No State shall enter into any Treaty, Alliance, or Confederation; grant Letters of Marque and Reprisal; coin Money; emit Bills of Credit; make any Thing but gold and silver Coin a Tender in Payment of Debts; pass any Bill of Attainder, ex post facto Law, or Law impairing the Obligation of Contracts, or grant any Title of Nobility.

No State shall, without the Consent of the Congress, lay any Imposts or Duties on Imports or Exports, except what may be absolutely necessary for executing it's inspection Laws: and the net Produce of all Duties and Imposts, laid by any State on Imports or Exports, shall be for the Use of the Treasury of the United States; and all such Laws shall be subject to the Revision and Controul of the Congress.

No State shall, without the Consent of Congress, lay any Duty of Tonnage, keep Troops, or Ships of War in time of Peace, enter into any Agreement or Compact with another State, or with a foreign Power, or engage in War, unless actually invaded, or in such imminent Danger as will not admit of delay.

Article. II.**Section. 1.**

The executive Power shall be vested in a President of the United States of America. He shall hold his Office during the Term of four Years, and, together with the Vice President, chosen for the same Term, be elected, as follows:

Each State shall appoint, in such Manner as the Legislature thereof may direct, a Number of Electors, equal to the whole Number of Senators and Representatives to which the State may be entitled in the Congress: but no Senator or Representative, or Person holding an Office of Trust or Profit under the United States, shall be appointed an Elector.

[The Electors shall meet in their respective States, and vote by Ballot for two Persons, of whom one at least shall not be an Inhabitant of the same State with themselves. And they shall make a List of all the Persons voted for, and of the Number of Votes for each; which List they shall sign and certify, and transmit sealed to the Seat of the Government of the United States, directed to the President of the Senate. The President of the Senate shall, in the Presence of the Senate and House of Representatives, open all the Certificates, and the Votes shall then be counted. The Person having the greatest Number of Votes shall be the President, if such Number be a Majority of the whole Number of Electors appointed; and if there be more than one who have such Majority, and have an equal Number of Votes, then the House of Representatives shall immediately chuse by Ballot one of them for President; and if no Person have a Majority, then from the five highest on the List the said House shall in like Manner chuse the President. But in chusing the President, the Votes shall be taken by States, the Representation from each State having one Vote; A quorum for this purpose shall consist of a Member or Members from two thirds of the States, and a Majority of all the States shall be necessary to a Choice. In every Case, after the Choice of the President, the Person having the greatest Number of Votes of the Electors shall be the Vice President. But if there should remain two or more who have equal Votes, the Senate shall chuse from them by Ballot the Vice President.]

The Congress may determine the Time of chusing the Electors, and the Day on which they shall give their Votes; which Day shall be the same throughout the United States.

No Person except a natural born Citizen, or a Citizen of the United States, at the time of the Adoption of this Constitution, shall be eligible to the Office of President; neither shall any Person be eligible to that Office who shall not have attained to the Age of thirty five Years, and been fourteen Years a Resident within the United States.

[In Case of the Removal of the President from Office, or of his Death, Resignation, or Inability to discharge the Powers and Duties of the said Office, the Same shall devolve on the Vice President, and the Congress may by Law provide for the Case of Removal, Death, Resignation or Inability, both of the President and Vice President, declaring what Officer shall then act as President, and such Officer shall act accordingly, until the Disability be removed, or a President shall be elected.]

The President shall, at stated Times, receive for his Services, a Compensation, which shall neither be increased nor diminished during the Period for which he shall have been elected, and he shall not receive within that Period any other Emolument from the United States, or any of them.

Before he enter on the Execution of his Office, he shall take the following Oath or Affirmation:—"I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will faithfully execute the Office of President of the United States, and will to the best of my Ability, preserve, protect and defend the Constitution of the United States."

Section. 2.

The President shall be Commander in Chief of the Army and Navy of the United States, and of the Militia of the several States, when called into the actual Service of the United States; he may require the Opinion, in writing, of the principal Officer in each of the executive Departments, upon any Subject relating to the Duties of their respective Offices, and he shall have Power to grant Reprieves and Pardons for Offences against the United States, except in Cases of Impeachment.

He shall have Power, by and with the Advice and Consent of the Senate, to make Treaties, provided two thirds of the Senators present concur; and he shall nominate, and by and with the Advice and Consent of the Senate, shall appoint Ambassadors, other public Ministers and Consuls, Judges of the supreme Court, and all other Officers of the United States, whose Appointments are not herein otherwise provided for, and which shall be established by Law: but the Congress may by Law vest the Appointment of such inferior Officers, as they think proper, in the President alone, in the Courts of Law, or in the Heads of Departments.

The President shall have Power to fill up all Vacancies that may happen during the Recess of the Senate, by granting Commissions which shall expire at the End of their next Session.

Section. 3.

He shall from time to time give to the Congress Information of the State of the Union, and recommend to their Consideration such Measures as he shall judge necessary and expedient; he

may, on extraordinary Occasions, convene both Houses, or either of them, and in Case of Disagreement between them, with Respect to the Time of Adjournment, he may adjourn them to such Time as he shall think proper; he shall receive Ambassadors and other public Ministers; he shall take Care that the Laws be faithfully executed, and shall Commission all the Officers of the United States.

Section. 4.

The President, Vice President and all civil Officers of the United States, shall be removed from Office on Impeachment for, and Conviction of, Treason, Bribery, or other high Crimes and Misdemeanors.

Article. III.

Section. 1.

The judicial Power of the United States shall be vested in one supreme Court, and in such inferior Courts as the Congress may from time to time ordain and establish. The Judges, both of the supreme and inferior Courts, shall hold their Offices during good Behaviour, and shall, at stated Times, receive for their Services a Compensation, which shall not be diminished during their Continuance in Office.

Section. 2.

The judicial Power shall extend to all Cases, in Law and Equity, arising under this Constitution, the Laws of the United States, and Treaties made, or which shall be made, under their Authority;—to all Cases affecting Ambassadors, other public Ministers and Consuls;—to all Cases of admiralty and maritime Jurisdiction;—to Controversies to which the United States shall be a Party;—to Controversies between two or more States;[— between a State and Citizens of another State,]—between Citizens of different States,—between Citizens of the same State claiming Lands under Grants of different States, and between a State, or the Citizens thereof, and foreign States, Citizens or Subjects.

In all Cases affecting Ambassadors, other public Ministers and Consuls, and those in which a State shall be Party, the supreme Court shall have original Jurisdiction. In all the other Cases before mentioned, the supreme Court shall have appellate Jurisdiction, both as to Law and Fact, with such Exceptions, and under such Regulations as the Congress shall make.

The Trial of all Crimes, except in Cases of Impeachment, shall be by Jury; and such Trial shall be held in the State where the said Crimes shall have been committed; but when not committed within any State, the Trial shall be at such Place or Places as the Congress may by Law have directed.

Section. 3.

Treason against the United States, shall consist only in levying War against them, or in adhering to their Enemies, giving them Aid and Comfort. No Person shall be convicted of Treason unless on the Testimony of two Witnesses to the same overt Act, or on Confession in open Court.

The Congress shall have Power to declare the Punishment of Treason, but no Attainder of Treason shall work Corruption of Blood, or Forfeiture except during the Life of the Person attainted.

Article. IV.**Section. 1.**

Full Faith and Credit shall be given in each State to the public Acts, Records, and judicial Proceedings of every other State. And the Congress may by general Laws prescribe the Manner in which such Acts, Records and Proceedings shall be proved, and the Effect thereof.

Section. 2.

The Citizens of each State shall be entitled to all Privileges and Immunities of Citizens in the several States.

A Person charged in any State with Treason, Felony, or other Crime, who shall flee from Justice, and be found in another State, shall on Demand of the executive Authority of the State from which he fled, be delivered up, to be removed to the State having Jurisdiction of the Crime.

[No Person held to Service or Labour in one State, under the Laws thereof, escaping into another, shall, in Consequence of any Law or Regulation therein, be discharged from such Service or Labour, but shall be delivered up on Claim of the Party to whom such Service or Labour may be due.]

Section. 3.

New States may be admitted by the Congress into this Union; but no new State shall be formed or erected within the Jurisdiction of any other State; nor any State be formed by the Junction of two or more States, or Parts of States, without the Consent of the Legislatures of the States concerned as well as of the Congress.

The Congress shall have Power to dispose of and make all needful Rules and Regulations respecting the Territory or other Property belonging to the United States; and nothing in this Constitution shall be so construed as to Prejudice any Claims of the United States, or of any particular State.

Section. 4.

The United States shall guarantee to every State in this Union a Republican Form of Government, and shall protect each of them against Invasion; and on Application of the Legislature, or of the Executive (when the Legislature cannot be convened), against domestic Violence.

Article. V.

The Congress, whenever two thirds of both Houses shall deem it necessary, shall propose Amendments to this Constitution, or, on the Application of the Legislatures of two thirds of the several States, shall call a Convention for proposing Amendments, which, in either Case, shall be valid to all Intents and Purposes, as Part of this Constitution, when ratified by the Legislatures of three fourths of the several States, or by Conventions in three fourths thereof, as the one or the other Mode of Ratification may be proposed by the Congress; Provided that no Amendment which may be made prior to the Year One thousand eight hundred and eight shall in any Manner affect the first and fourth Clauses in the Ninth Section of the first Article; and that no State, without its Consent, shall be deprived of its equal Suffrage in the Senate.

Article. VI.

All Debts contracted and Engagements entered into, before the Adoption of this Constitution, shall be as valid against the United States under this Constitution, as under the Confederation.

This Constitution, and the Laws of the United States which shall be made in Pursuance thereof; and all Treaties made, or which shall be made, under the Authority of the United States, shall be the supreme Law of the Land; and the Judges in every State shall be bound thereby, any Thing in the Constitution or Laws of any State to the Contrary notwithstanding.

The Senators and Representatives before mentioned, and the Members of the several State Legislatures, and all executive and judicial Officers, both of the United States and of the several States, shall be bound by Oath or Affirmation, to support this Constitution; but no religious Test shall ever be required as a Qualification to any Office or public Trust under the United States.

Article. VII.

The Ratification of the Conventions of nine States, shall be sufficient for the Establishment of this Constitution between the States so ratifying the Same.

The Word, “the,” being interlined between the seventh and eighth Lines of the first Page, the Word “Thirty” being partly written on an Erasure in the fifteenth Line of the first Page, The Words “is tried” being interlined between the thirty second and thirty third Lines of the first Page and the Word “the” being interlined between the forty third and forty fourth Lines of the second Page.

Attest William Jackson Secretary

done in Convention by the Unanimous Consent of the States present the Seventeenth Day of September in the Year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and Eighty seven and of the Independance of the United States of America the Twelfth In witness whereof

We have hereunto subscribed our Names,

G. Washington
Presidt and deputy from
Virginia

Delaware
Geo: Read
Gunning Bedford jun
John Dickinson
Richard Bassett
Jaco: Broom

Maryland
James McHenry
Dan of St Thos. Jenifer
Danl. Carroll

Virginia
John Blair
James Madison Jr.

North Carolina
Wm. Blount
Richd. Dobbs Spaight
Hu Williamson

South Carolina
J. Rutledge
Charles Cotesworth Pinckney
Charles Pinckney
Pierce Butler

Georgia
William Few
Abr Baldwin

New Hampshire
John Langdon
Nicholas Gilman

Massachusetts
Nathaniel Gorham
Rufus King

Connecticut
Wm. Saml. Johnson
Roger Sherman

New York
Alexander Hamilton

New Jersey
Wil: Livingston
David Brearley
Wm. Paterson
Jona: Dayton

Pennsylvania
B Franklin
Thomas Mifflin
Robt. Morris
Geo. Clymer
Thos. FitzSimons
Jared Ingersoll
James Wilson
Gouv Morris

Amendments to the Constitution of the United States

Note: The following text contains a transcription of the first ten amendments to the Constitution in their original form. The first ten amendments were ratified December 15, 1791, and form what is known as the “Bill of Rights.”

Amendment I

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.

Amendment II

A well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed.

Amendment III

No Soldier shall, in time of peace be quartered in any house, without the consent of the Owner, nor in time of war, but in a manner to be prescribed by law.

Amendment IV

The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated, and no Warrants shall issue, but upon probable cause, supported by Oath or affirmation, and particularly describing the place to be searched, and the persons or things to be seized.

Amendment V

No person shall be held to answer for a capital, or otherwise infamous crime, unless on a presentment or indictment of a Grand Jury, except in cases arising in the land or naval forces, or in the Militia, when in actual service in time of War or public danger; nor shall any person be subject for the same offence to be twice put in jeopardy of life or limb; nor shall be compelled in any criminal case to be a witness against himself, nor be deprived of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor shall private property be taken for public use, without just compensation.

Amendment VI

In all criminal prosecutions, the accused shall enjoy the right to a speedy and public trial, by an impartial jury of the State and district wherein the crime shall have been committed, which district shall have been previously ascertained by law, and to be informed of the nature and cause of the accusation; to be confronted with the witnesses against him; to have compulsory process for obtaining witnesses in his favor, and to have the Assistance of Counsel for his defence.

Amendment VII

In Suits at common law, where the value in controversy shall exceed twenty dollars, the right of trial by jury shall be preserved, and no fact tried by a jury, shall be otherwise re-examined in any Court of the United States, than according to the rules of the common law.

Amendment VIII

Excessive bail shall not be required, nor excessive fines imposed, nor cruel and unusual punishments inflicted.

Amendment IX

The enumeration in the Constitution, of certain rights, shall not be construed to deny or disparage others retained by the people.

Amendment X

The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people.

Amendment XI

Passed by Congress March 4, 1794. Ratified February 7, 1795.

Note: Article III, section 2, of the Constitution was modified by amendment 11.

The Judicial power of the United States shall not be construed to extend to any suit in law or equity, commenced or prosecuted against one of the United States by Citizens of another State, or by Citizens or Subjects of any Foreign State.

Amendment XII

Passed by Congress December 9, 1803. Ratified June 15, 1804.

Note: A portion of Article II, section 1 of the Constitution was superseded by the 12th amendment.

The Electors shall meet in their respective states and vote by ballot for President and Vice-President, one of whom, at least, shall not be an inhabitant of the same state with themselves; they shall name in their ballots the person voted for as President, and in distinct ballots the person voted for as Vice-President, and they shall make distinct lists of all persons voted for as President, and of all persons voted for as Vice-President, and of the number of votes for each, which lists they shall sign and certify, and transmit sealed to the seat of the government of the United States, directed to the President of the Senate; — the President of the Senate shall, in the presence of the Senate and House of Representatives, open all the certificates and the votes shall then be counted; — The person having the greatest number of votes for President, shall be the President, if such number be a majority of the whole number of Electors appointed; and if no person have such majority, then from the persons having the highest numbers not exceeding three on the list of those voted for as President, the House of Representatives shall choose immediately, by ballot, the President. But in choosing the President, the votes shall be taken by states, the representation from each state having one vote; a quorum for this purpose shall consist of a member or members from two-thirds of the states, and a majority of all the states shall be necessary to a choice. [And if the House of Representatives shall not choose a President whenever the right of choice shall devolve upon them, before the fourth day of March next following, then the Vice-President shall act as President, as in case of the death or other constitutional disability of the President. —]* The person having the greatest number of votes as Vice-President, shall be the Vice-President, if such number be a majority of the whole number of Electors appointed, and if no person have a majority, then from the two highest numbers on the list, the Senate shall choose the Vice-President; a quorum for the purpose shall consist of two-thirds of the whole number of Senators, and a majority of the whole number shall be necessary to a choice. But no person constitutionally ineligible to the office of President shall be eligible to that of Vice-President of the United States.

**Superseded by section 3 of the 20th amendment.*

Amendment XIII

Passed by Congress January 31, 1865. Ratified December 6, 1865.

Note: A portion of Article IV, section 2, of the Constitution was superseded by the 13th amendment.

Section 1.

Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, except as a punishment for crime whereof the party shall have been duly convicted, shall exist within the United States, or any place subject to their jurisdiction.

Section 2.

Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.

Amendment XIV

Passed by Congress June 13, 1866. Ratified July 9, 1868.

Note: Article I, section 2, of the Constitution was modified by section 2 of the 14th amendment.

Section 1.

All persons born or naturalized in the United States, and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens of the United States and of the State wherein they reside. No State shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States; nor shall any State deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws.

Section 2.

Representatives shall be apportioned among the several States according to their respective numbers, counting the whole number of persons in each State, excluding Indians not taxed. But when the right to vote at any election for the choice of electors for President and Vice-President of the United States, Representatives in Congress, the Executive and Judicial officers of a State, or the members of the Legislature thereof, is denied to any of the male inhabitants of such State, being twenty-one years of age,* and citizens of the United States, or in any way abridged, except for participation in rebellion, or other crime, the basis of representation therein shall be reduced in the proportion which the number of such male citizens shall bear to the whole number of male citizens twenty-one years of age in such State.

Section 3.

No person shall be a Senator or Representative in Congress, or elector of President and Vice-President, or hold any office, civil or military, under the United States, or under any State, who, having previously taken an oath, as a member of Congress, or as an officer of the United States, or as a member of any State legislature, or as an executive or judicial officer of any State, to support the Constitution of the United States, shall have engaged in insurrection or rebellion against the same, or given aid or comfort to the enemies thereof. But Congress may by a vote of two-thirds of each House, remove such disability.

Section 4.

The validity of the public debt of the United States, authorized by law, including debts incurred for payment of pensions and bounties for services in suppressing insurrection or rebellion, shall not be questioned. But neither the United States nor any State shall assume or pay any debt or obligation incurred in aid of insurrection or rebellion against the United States, or any claim for the loss or emancipation of any slave; but all such debts, obligations and claims shall be held illegal and void.

Section 5.

The Congress shall have the power to enforce, by appropriate legislation, the provisions of this article.

**Changed by section 1 of the 26th amendment.*

Amendment XV

Passed by Congress February 26, 1869. Ratified February 3, 1870.

Section 1.

The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of race, color, or previous condition of servitude—

Section 2.

The Congress shall have the power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.

Amendment XVI

Passed by Congress July 2, 1909. Ratified February 3, 1913.

Note: Article I, section 9, of the Constitution was modified by amendment 16.

The Congress shall have power to lay and collect taxes on incomes, from whatever source derived, without apportionment among the several States, and without regard to any census or enumeration.

Amendment XVII

Passed by Congress May 13, 1912. Ratified April 8, 1913.

Note: Article I, section 3, of the Constitution was modified by the 17th amendment.

The Senate of the United States shall be composed of two Senators from each State, elected by the people thereof, for six years; and each Senator shall have one vote. The electors in each State shall have the qualifications requisite for electors of the most numerous branch of the State legislatures.

When vacancies happen in the representation of any State in the Senate, the executive authority of such State shall issue writs of election to fill such vacancies: Provided, That the legislature of any State may empower the executive thereof to make temporary appointments until the people fill the vacancies by election as the legislature may direct.

This amendment shall not be so construed as to affect the election or term of any Senator chosen before it becomes valid as part of the Constitution.

Amendment XVIII

Passed by Congress December 18, 1917. Ratified January 16, 1919. Repealed by amendment 21.

Section 1.

After one year from the ratification of this article the manufacture, sale, or transportation of intoxicating liquors within, the importation thereof into, or the exportation thereof from the United States and all territory subject to the jurisdiction thereof for beverage purposes is hereby prohibited.

Section 2.

The Congress and the several States shall have concurrent power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.

Section 3.

This article shall be inoperative unless it shall have been ratified as an amendment to the Constitution by the legislatures of the several States, as provided in the Constitution, within seven years from the date of the submission hereof to the States by the Congress.

Amendment XIX

Passed by Congress June 4, 1919. Ratified August 18, 1920.

The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex.

Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.

Amendment XX

Passed by Congress March 2, 1932. Ratified January 23, 1933.

Note: Article I, section 4, of the Constitution was modified by section 2 of this amendment. In addition, a portion of the 12th amendment was superseded by section 3.

Section 1.

The terms of the President and the Vice President shall end at noon on the 20th day of January, and the terms of Senators and Representatives at noon on the 3d day of January, of the years in which such terms would have ended if this article had not been ratified; and the terms of their successors shall then begin.

Section 2.

The Congress shall assemble at least once in every year, and such meeting shall begin at noon on the 3d day of January, unless they shall by law appoint a different day.

Section 3.

If, at the time fixed for the beginning of the term of the President, the President elect shall have died, the Vice President elect shall become President. If a President shall not have been chosen before the time fixed for the beginning of his term, or if the President elect shall have failed to qualify, then the Vice President elect shall act as President until a President shall have qualified; and the Congress may by law provide for the case wherein neither a President elect nor a Vice President shall have qualified, declaring who shall then act as President, or the manner in which one who is to act shall be selected, and such person shall act accordingly until a President or Vice President shall have qualified.

Section 4.

The Congress may by law provide for the case of the death of any of the persons from whom the House of Representatives may choose a President whenever the right of choice shall have devolved upon them, and for the case of the death of any of the persons from whom the Senate may choose a Vice President whenever the right of choice shall have devolved upon them.

Section 5.

Sections 1 and 2 shall take effect on the 15th day of October following the ratification of this article.

Section 6.

This article shall be inoperative unless it shall have been ratified as an amendment to the Constitution by the legislatures of three-fourths of the several States within seven years from the date of its submission.

Amendment XXI

Passed by Congress February 20, 1933. Ratified December 5, 1933.

Section 1.

The eighteenth article of amendment to the Constitution of the United States is hereby repealed.

Section 2.

The transportation or importation into any State, Territory, or Possession of the United States for delivery or use therein of intoxicating liquors, in violation of the laws thereof, is hereby prohibited.

Section 3.

This article shall be inoperative unless it shall have been ratified as an amendment to the Constitution by conventions in the several States, as provided in the Constitution, within seven years from the date of the submission hereof to the States by the Congress.

Amendment XXII

Passed by Congress March 21, 1947. Ratified February 27, 1951.

Section 1.

No person shall be elected to the office of the President more than twice, and no person who has held the office of President, or acted as President, for more than two years of a term to which some other person was elected President shall be elected to the office of President more than once. But this Article shall not apply to any person holding the office of President when this Article was proposed by Congress, and shall not prevent any person who may be holding the office of President, or acting as President, during the term within which this Article becomes operative from holding the office of President or acting as President during the remainder of such term.

Section 2.

This article shall be inoperative unless it shall have been ratified as an amendment to the Constitution by the legislatures of three-fourths of the several States within seven years from the date of its submission to the States by the Congress.

Amendment XXIII

Passed by Congress June 16, 1960. Ratified March 29, 1961.

Section 1.

The District constituting the seat of Government of the United States shall appoint in such manner as Congress may direct:

A number of electors of President and Vice President equal to the whole number of Senators and Representatives in Congress to which the District would be entitled if it were a State, but in no event more than the least populous State; they shall be in addition to those appointed by the States, but they shall be considered, for the purposes of the election of President and Vice President, to be electors appointed by a State; and they shall meet in the District and perform such duties as provided by the twelfth article of amendment.

Section 2.

The Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.

Amendment XXIV

Passed by Congress August 27, 1962. Ratified January 23, 1964.

Section 1.

The right of citizens of the United States to vote in any primary or other election for President or Vice President, for electors for President or Vice President, or for Senator or Representative in Congress, shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or any State by reason of failure to pay poll tax or other tax.

Section 2.

The Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.

Amendment XXV

Passed by Congress July 6, 1965. Ratified February 10, 1967.

Note: Article II, section 1, of the Constitution was affected by the 25th amendment.

Section 1.

In case of the removal of the President from office or of his death or resignation, the Vice President shall become President.

Section 2.

Whenever there is a vacancy in the office of the Vice President, the President shall nominate a Vice President who shall take office upon confirmation by a majority vote of both Houses of Congress.

Section 3.

Whenever the President transmits to the President pro tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives his written declaration that he is unable to discharge the powers and duties of his office, and until he transmits to them a written declaration to the contrary, such powers and duties shall be discharged by the Vice President as Acting President.

Section 4.

Whenever the Vice President and a majority of either the principal officers of the executive departments or of such other body as Congress may by law provide, transmit to the President pro tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives their written declaration that the President is unable to discharge the powers and duties of his office, the Vice President shall immediately assume the powers and duties of the office as Acting President.

Thereafter, when the President transmits to the President pro tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives his written declaration that no inability exists, he shall resume the powers and duties of his office unless the Vice President and a majority of either the principal officers of the executive department or of such other body as Congress may by law provide, transmit within four days to the President pro tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives their written declaration that the President is unable to discharge the powers and duties of his office. Thereupon Congress shall decide the issue, assembling within forty-eight hours for that purpose if not in session. If the Congress, within twenty-one days after receipt of the latter written declaration, or, if Congress is not in session, within twenty-one days after Congress is required to assemble, determines by two-thirds

vote of both Houses that the President is unable to discharge the powers and duties of his office, the Vice President shall continue to discharge the same as Acting President; otherwise, the President shall resume the powers and duties of his office.

Amendment XXVI

Passed by Congress March 23, 1971. Ratified July 1, 1971.

Note: Amendment 14, section 2, of the Constitution was modified by section 1 of the 26th amendment.

Section 1.

The right of citizens of the United States, who are eighteen years of age or older, to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of age.

Section 2.

The Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.

Amendment XXVII

Originally proposed Sept. 25, 1789. Ratified May 7, 1992.

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DEADLINES

49th - 90th Legislative Days

Day 56 Bill draft requests for committee and leadership revenue bills, bills proposing referenda, and bills implementing HB2*	Day 60 Bill draft requests for interim study resolutions* Transmittal of revenue-estimating joint resolutions	Day 62 Introduction of appropriation bills, revenue bills, general joint resolutions, and bills proposing referenda	Day 67 Transmittal of revenue bills, general joint resolutions, and bills proposing referenda
Day 69 Transmittal of appropriation bills and bills implementing general appropriation bills	Day 73 Transmittal of amendments to general bills and resolutions	Easter Break April 19 - 21	Day 79 Introduction of study resolutions
Day 80 Transmittal of Senate amendments to appropriation bills and amendments to revenue bills, bills proposing referenda, and general joint resolutions	Day 82 Transmittal of amendments to revenue-estimating resolutions	Day 85 Transmittal of interim study resolutions	Day 90 Last day for Sine Die (Adjournment)

*Bills and resolutions must be introduced within two days after delivery to the requestor (Joint Rule 40-50)

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